

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the first half term of the academic year, I would like to thank staff, students, parents and governors for their hard work and support over the last eight weeks. We have all been faced with significant challenges and potential barriers and I'm extremely proud of how our community has responded. Our students and staff have demonstrated extraordinary levels of resilience and effort to transition seamlessly into our new way of working.

We have tried our utmost to stick to our principle of ensuring all students in every year group receive a broad and balanced curriculum and the highest quality of education possible. As you can imagine, this has without doubt been challenging, with drama lessons taking place in classrooms, science practicals being delivered remotely and five year groups having lunch in separate spaces across the academy. We are pleased with the student engagement in our Enrichment Programme; we feel passionately that our students are given the opportunity to get back to a somewhat 'normal' way of life.

Some families have contacted me regarding the reinstatement of lockers. Unfortunately, due to health and safety procedures, this will not be possible at the moment. We will continue to review our practices and update our community with any changes that we are able to make.

A polite reminder regarding academy standards on our return in November. It is important that all uniform and PE kit misdemeanors are addressed to allow a smooth start to the next half term. Please ensure no facial piercings or radical hair colorings are agreed to during the half term break. All students are expected to be in their line-up area for 8.30am every morning. This has been extremely successful and an area of academy life that we are very committed to continuing with.

From November, we will be insisting that all bikes and scooters are walked on and from the academy site. It is important that all students adhere to this to ensure a safer environment for all.

The academy will re-open to students on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020, at the usual time of 8.30am. Please ensure you have a restful and safe half term and ensure that all Halloween celebrations are managed appropriately and within the government guidelines.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Fitzgibbon  
Principal