



August 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your families are enjoying the summer break, and that your children are making the most of the opportunity to relax and prepare for the year ahead. It is important to reflect on the successes of last year, but also to plan for the challenges that lie ahead.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have achieved some excellent outcomes in their external examinations, and are being supported by the staff in the Careers team to secure the best options moving forward. I am very proud of the effort and diligence displayed by these students, and wish them well in their future endeavours, as well as awaiting with anticipation the return of some of our students to the Sixth Form.

My Sandwell Student Values of 'Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Proud' underpin the ethos of the Academy, and I have supplemented these with our staff characteristics of being 'Collaborative, Consistent and Creative.' I am committed to the child-centred ethos, and seek to maximise the potential of all our students in all areas. My desire to drive up standards of behaviour towards the end of last term with our Conduct Review system yielded some positive success, and we will continue with this process moving forward. An improvement in the teaching and learning opportunities that we provide for our students is my driving aim this year, and I would urge you to check your child's portfolios regularly and to report any concerns through the relevant channels.

I am also responding to parent and carer requests for more access to information around their children's progress in particular subjects. With this in mind, there will be an opportunity for parents and carers of students in every year group to attend a formal Parents' Evening, to meet with subject teachers around the progress of our students. I feel this will be a benefit, and dates will be dotted around the year for maximum impact.

I also took the decision to begin lessons at the very start of the day, rather than having a morning Personal Tutorial session, to ensure the most purposeful start possible to the day. This has led to a more settled beginning in the day, and we will continue to operate this. The extended Personal Tutorial session in the middle of the day gives excellent opportunities to deliver our PSHE, Citizenship and Safeguarding curriculum, so I believe this continues to benefit the students.

Our Session 3 programme is a hallmark of the Academy, and it will be slightly amended this year. Previously, we have had disruption to this for staff Professional Development weeks, and at the beginning and end of each half term. Session 3 will now run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, but will run for more weeks, ensuring better continuity for students. You will receive more detailed information about the activities in store in due course.

Accompanying this letter is a pack with details of arrangements for the start of term. Please take the time to look through the information with your child in preparation for the next Academic Year. I look forward to welcoming Year 7 students and new Year 12 students on Wednesday 6 September, and the rest of the Academy on Thursday 7 September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Saunders
Headteacher

