

28th March 2024

Dear Families,

Happy Easter! As we reach the end of Term 4, I am writing with my regular update on the Academy, including staffing changes and things to look forward to as we approach the summer. [As usual, there is a video version of this letter available here.](#)

Around the Academy

We have just said farewell to a team from Challenge Partners, who have conducted a whole-school review of the Academy. The team - composed of school leaders and experts from across the country - spent three days with us, scrutinising our documentation, visiting lessons, tutor times and extra-curricular activities, and meeting with groups of students and staff. This was a thorough and searching review, and we were delighted with the feedback. The full report will follow, but reviewers were very impressed with the school and the progress which has been made over the last twelve months.

Students continue to excel academically. We are particularly pleased with our Year 11 and 13 students, whose mock exam results show the rewards of the effort that they have put in over recent months and bode well for the summer. The Easter break is a key time for exam classes to spend revising, but we would also urge all our students to ensure that they balance their school work with rest and relaxation so they are ready to perform at their best. Revision in short, focused bursts - little and often - is far more effective than hours and hours slaving over the books. For further guidance on revision, [see the Headteacher's Blog](#).

Beyond the classroom, we're still buzzing from *High School Musical - On Stage* in February - those songs are really catchy! - as well as our very popular Spring Concert. Our sports teams have also excelled, with our U14 girls' football team preparing for a cup final against Millfield after Easter. The library, always a hive of activity, was especially busy around World Book Day! And, over recent weeks,

our student leadership teams have got their fundraising underway with Easter Egg hunts, a themed tuck shop - and more to come!

We've also launched our [new-look website](#), and received lots of positive feedback about the simplified navigation and ease of use. Please keep the feedback coming.

Staffing update

Even in the midst of a recruitment crisis, we have been working hard to keep the Academy fully staffed with subject experts. We have been successful with our recruitments to date, and we are currently advertising for several roles; for further details please see <https://www.eteach.com/careers/churchill-academy/>.

In Term 5 we are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Bartosova back to Churchill Academy & Sixth Form to cover Miss Brockington's maternity leave in the Art department.

Congratulations to Rob Morgan, Assistant Headteacher for Sixth Form and Careers, who has been successful in his application to be Deputy Headteacher at St Mary Redcliffe and Temple school in Bristol. I am delighted to announce that Hannah Sheppard, currently Deputy Head of Sixth Form, will take over the role from Mr Morgan when he moves to his new position at the start of Term 6. Miss Sheppard and Mr Morgan will be working together to hand over the responsibility throughout Term 5.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a happy Easter. Term begins again on Monday 15th April - we look forward to seeing you then.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Hildrew

Headteacher