

20th December 2024

Dear Families,

I am writing with my end-of-term update for Term 2. In this letter I will give you a brief update on the Academy, some staffing changes for January and a look ahead to 2024.

Around the Academy

It's been another very exciting term, with our students really pushing themselves on in their learning and continuing to impress us with their kindness, curiosity and determination. Beyond the taught curriculum, our students have continued to excel on the sports field, in the performing and creative arts, in their leadership roles and with their support of charities.

We were particularly gratified by the responses students gave to the "Our School" student survey we conducted in November. In their responses, our students were able to reflect well on *how* they learned best and the progress they were making. We also asked students to tell us about work they were proud of, and we were overwhelmed by the vast range of examples our students provided from across the full range of subjects. Students also reported increased confidence in learning and significant improvements in behaviour in their lessons over the past year. This is very encouraging and further demonstrates the progress we have made over the past year and a half.

Coming up after Christmas we are really looking forward to the key stage 3 production of *We Will Rock You!* from 15th to 18th January. The show, performed entirely by students in years 7, 8 and 9, has been directed, produced and managed by our sixth form student leaders. It promises to be a terrific show - [tickets are on sale now!](#)

Staffing update

We are delighted to have recruited a number of excellent colleagues to join our team from January. We look forward to welcoming the following staff to the Academy:

Staff name	Role
Miss J Cox	Leader of Learning for Design and Technology
Mr M Humphrey	Teacher of Music
Mr L Cante	Teacher of History and Politics
Mr J Westlake	Cover Supervisor
Mrs L Riddoch	Teacher of Food and Nutrition
Mr D Saddler	Teacher of Design and Technology
Miss J Bale	Teaching Assistant

In addition, the following staff will be taking on new roles from January:

Staff name	New Role
Mr J Spencer	Leader of Learning for Music
Miss K Brockington	Leader of Learning for Art
Mr C Newell	Leader of Learning for KS4 Science
Mrs C Coman	Leader of Learning for Food and Nutrition
Mr L Smith	Sixth Form Head of Year
Mr L Matthews	Deputy Director of Faculty (PE) job share
Mrs H Putterill	Teacher of Science

Mrs Dearn (Food and Nutrition) has begun her maternity leave and we wish her and her new family well.

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to a number of colleagues at the end of this term. We say farewell to:

- Mr Downing (Art)
- Mrs Watson (Science)
- Mr Butcher (Design Technology)
- Mr Bryant (Music)
- Mr Rolph (Mathematics)
- Miss Davies (History and Politics)
- Mr Davey (PE)
- Mrs Stringer (Design Technology)

- Mr Merryfield (ADT Technician)

We wish them all well in the future, and thank them for their contribution to Churchill. I will make a special mention of Mr Downing, Head of Art, who is retiring after 25 years at the school. He has taught and inspired countless students over the years, and I know that we will miss his creativity, kindness and commitment. We wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement!

As a result of the staffing changes listed above, there will be a number of adjustments to timetables over the Christmas holidays as we reassign some lessons to different teachers. Learning and teaching groupings will not be affected. Timetable changes will be visible in MCAS and the Student Portal before the start of Term 3.

Finally, let me wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. I look forward to seeing our students back in 2025!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Hildrew', with a long, flowing tail.

Chris Hildrew
Headteacher