

14th February 2025

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe we are halfway through the academic year already, but here we are at the end of term 3. The skies are getting lighter earlier and darker later, and there is a feeling in the air that spring is on the way!

Our students have continued to excel across their lessons and beyond. There have been so many achievements and successes, but a few that stood out to me were our A-level Spanish students triumphing in the Modern Foreign Languages Debate competition at Clifton College; our Year 11 rugby team making the county final; the Churchill Young Musician of the Year competition at St John's Church; our Chess Team securing top ten finishes in the national chess competition; and of course the incredible junior production of *We Will Rock You*. Alongside the trips and visits, sporting fixtures, creative endeavours and public speaking competitions, it's been a busy term!

You can read all about our student successes in the weekly [e-newsletter](#), and catch up on the [Academy News page](#) of our website.

Progress on punctuality

We have been focused this term on supporting our students to ensure that they are on time for school. We have seen a really positive response, with significant improvements in punctuality from students across the Academy both to school and lessons. We will continue to emphasise the importance of being on time, and we are grateful for your support with this.

Uniform standards

We also want to thank families for their support in ensuring that students are appropriately dressed for school in the correct uniform. Whilst the vast majority of students are perfectly turned out every single day, we have noticed an

increase in non-standard uniform items, especially jogging bottoms, leggings white socks, and hooped earrings. Students without the correct uniform will be provided with items so they don't miss lessons due to uniform code breaches, but this is time consuming and can result in unnecessary challenges. We would appreciate your support in ensuring that all students are properly equipped for school and wearing the right uniform. We will be focusing carefully on this issue during Term 4, so thank you in advance for your support.

National policy

There is a new "Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill" making its way through parliament at the moment. One of the proposals in the bill is to limit the number of branded items that schools can require as part of their uniform. We will watch the bill's progress with interest as we think about the implications of this proposal for us, and we will keep you informed with plenty of notice.

Ofsted are also proposing a new inspection framework to be introduced later this year, and have opened a consultation on it. They are keen for parents and families to respond to this consultation, which is available [on the government's website here](#), alongside details of Ofsted's proposals. Please feel free to contribute to this consultation.

All that remains is for me to thank you for your continued support of our Academy, and to wish you a restful half term. We look forward to seeing our students back on Monday 24th February, which will be the week 2 timetable.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Hildrew
Headteacher