

22nd May 2025

Dear Families,

I am writing with my end-of-term update for Term 5. In this letter you will find details of what has been happening this term, and a look ahead to Term 6.

Around the Academy

This has been a very short term, only five weeks long - and two of those were four-day weeks because of bank holidays! Despite this, we have crammed a huge amount in.

We have seen our senior students in Years 11 and 13 begin to tackle their end-of-course exams. Having worked hard over the past two years on their GCSE, A-level or applied courses, this is the opportunity for them to show how much they have learned and what they can do. We have been really impressed by the way our students have approached this challenge. Exams are not easy for anyone, no matter how well prepared, and we know that many of our young people have had to overcome significant additional hurdles to get to this point. We applaud them all for their hard work and look forward to them getting the result that they so richly deserve in the summer. We bade farewell to Year 13 last week, and we enjoyed the traditional “last day” celebration with Year 11 today in glorious sunshine; we are really proud of both year groups and wish them every success in the future.

Beyond exams, our student councils have been busy working on their summer projects, and we are preparing for the transition process. Year 10 will shortly become “buddies” for students starting with us in September, and each house is in the process of selecting its house captains to act as their executive student leaders. This appointment is a great honour and responsibility and the applications are sure to be of the highest quality!

Meanwhile, our sports teams have been flourishing - although not always winning. As I have been saying to them on a weekly basis, sometimes it's the taking part that counts! There have also been amazing individual successes for

some of our elite competitors, detailed on the [Academy News page on the website](#).

I was also honoured to accompany Year 10 students to see *An Inspector Calls* in Birmingham with the English Department. They were wonderful company, and insightful in their analysis of the production, speaking with genuine enthusiasm about seeing the lines from the pages of their English set text come to life on stage. Although the thunderous applause following the line “I don’t play golf!” took me by surprise, they told me it’s a TikTok trend - so we all learned something!

Finally, we were pleased to welcome a team of inspectors from Ofsted to the Academy this week. The report will be published in Term 6, and I will write to you as soon as it is available with further details.

Uniform and “making the most of lesson time”

Thank you to all families for your support with the push on uniform standards that I wrote about in my Term 4 update. The change has been dramatic, and uniform standards this term have been noticeably improved. We appreciate the effort that this can take at home, and we really appreciate the support from families in this regard. Please continue to check the [uniform code on the Academy website](#) if you are unsure - it hasn’t changed!

We have also seen a great improvement in students making the most of their lesson times. They have been really organised in ensuring they are filling water bottles and using the toilets before school, at break, lunchtime and after school, so that lessons can continue uninterrupted. Again, we are very grateful for parental support with this approach, which is having a huge positive impact on learning and progress in lessons.

In Term 6 we are going to be having a focus on the starts of lessons, including tutor time in the morning. Please remember that students should be on site by 8:30am when the “warning bell” sounds, so that they can make their way to tutor time, which begins promptly at 8:35am. We know that there can sometimes be issues with traffic in our rural location, so please make allowances to ensure that children arrive at school on time wherever possible.

Looking ahead

We're already looking ahead to a packed and exciting summer term. Students in Years 7 and 8 had assemblies this week about the annual sponsored walk, and Years 9 and 10 were briefed about the senior trek, which is scheduled to take place on Friday 13th June. This is always a fantastic event, and we hope the weather will be kind to us this year to get our students out onto the Mendips with us!

We also have Sports Day, Activities Week, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, the Madagascar expedition, the Year 11 Oxford Trip, and Celebration of Success to look forward to, as well as our Year 6 into 7 and Year 11 into 12 transition events, the Year 11 Prom, the Year 13 Ball - and so much more! Please make sure that students are well-rested over half term, as it's going to be full on when they return...

I wish you all a happy, healthy and restful half term break. Term begins again on Monday 2nd June - we look forward to seeing our students then.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Hildrew

Headteacher