

Headteacher: Michelle Scott

1 July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write and provide you with some feedback from the last two weeks at the Academy as there is indeed much to share and celebrate.

We have been working hard at driving standards of teaching and learning at the Academy by gaining a consistent approach to teaching and learning across the curriculum. Staff attended an INSET last week where we discussed our priorities for engaging our learners and ensuring that they are provided with the tools and knowledge they need to progress to the next stage in their learning. This has been coupled with Academy wide assessments for all students including year 10 mock exams which are providing us with a clear set of data, enabling us to identify learning gaps so we can ensure we provide individual students with the appropriate support.

In other areas of Academy life, we have been thrilled by the involvement and excitement of the KS3 with the Spelling Bee which saw us produce a number of finalists and three winners: Saumya Lal in year 7, Jakub Sikora in year 8 and Hidayatou Bah Bah in year 9 who all received an e-reader. It was hard to whittle down year 8 to a final three as there were several who spelt every single year 8 word correctly which meant using year 9 words as a knockout round! We are so proud of all our students who participated and particularly those finalists who, under the gaze of their year group, handled the pressure so well.

The next competition we are launching for students is an Art competition to create pieces of artwork for the main atrium based on our Academy community and values but <u>Mrs Harbott</u> will send more details about this to all students very soon.

We also saw the launch of the 'Safeguarding Ambassadors', a student led group supported by Miss Olowa for all students to speak out about any kind of peer on peer abuse and support reconciliation between peers to improve student culture. The group had stands out at lunchtime earlier this week and invited students to post messages of support against peer on peer abuse and to spread the word of where they can find help and advice.

This week you will receive a link to a questionnaire about Academy communication, everything from how quickly key staff get back to you, to reception to reporting home. After the information is reviewed, we will then launch our communication plan in a bid to ensure we improve upon all areas outlined. The introduction of Class Charts which will be launched properly in September













(you will receive more information about this term however) will support a great deal with improving our home/school communication.

It is also with great pleasure that I can introduce our new Senior Deputy Head Jo Paddock who will be responsible for Climate and Culture (Behaviour and Inclusion). Mrs Paddock brings with her a wealth of experience from inner city schools with a strong pastoral background and is excited, as we are, to be joining us from next week to support further rapid improvements at NBA.

This week, we have transition day for our new students joining us in September and our own dance students have been selected as finalists at the E-Act national pupil celebration awards at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. What a talented bunch our students are!

All that remains in this update is to wish you a happy and safe week ahead

Best wishes

Michelle Scott Headteacher











