

End of Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is that time of year now when we start to look forward to our winter holidays and also to celebrate the brilliant work of staff and students over the past term. It has been a very busy one!

I am very proud of how the overall standards of attendance, behaviour and attitudes have improved across the Academy. I am enjoying seeing the very positive relationships between staff and students continue to be developed building on the work of the Paul Dix training we had on our first INSET day this year. The introduction of ClassCharts has also been a really powerful tool to celebrate students' attitudes, efforts and successes and to communicate with parents on areas we are working on together for the continued improvement of our wonderful school.

Staffing changes

We have also been undergoing a number of significant changes in the Academy including a restructure of leadership roles which is set to be launched early next term. Within the Senior Leadership Team, we have recruited a new Deputy Head, Chris Newman, who I am sure you will join me in welcoming from January. The SLT structure and appointed roles and responsibilities from January are as follows:

- ❖ Michelle Scott - Overall school improvement
- ❖ Jo Paddock - Senior Deputy Headteacher - Overall behaviour, climate and culture
- ❖ Chris Newman - Deputy Head - Quality of Education
- ❖ Adrian Powell - Assistant Head - Behaviour & Attitudes
- ❖ Mohammed Khalid - Assistant Head - Safeguarding & Attendance
- ❖ Samantha Saddler - Assistant Head - Raising Standards
- ❖ Heather Walsh - Assistant Head - Teaching & Learning
- ❖ Bhavisha Chauhan - Assistant Head - Curriculum

I am sure you will join me in congratulating all those appointed to their roles and we look forward to working with our whole academy team to drive through further improvements.

Curriculum

We are also undergoing some positive changes to the curriculum offer for KS3 to ensure that students have access to the broadest possible curriculum including full exposure to the technology and Arts subjects. The changes will come into effect from January when students will be issued with new timetables.

Furthermore, I would ask all parents to get behind our philosophy of **'keep up, not catch up'**. This is significantly important as any missed learning or learning which has not been fully formed will build towards greater and deeper issues later in our students' education. Therefore, if your child has been invited to a 'Curriculum Plus' intervention after school (these are personalised invitations based on individual pupil need), it is expected that your child attends. You can support this by reminding them about the session and the expectation

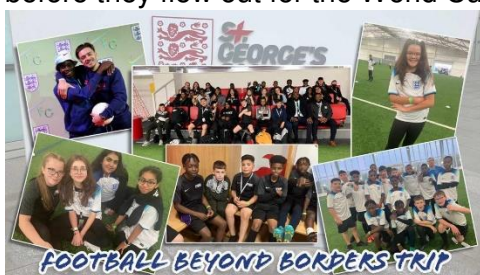
that they stay in order for the teacher to help fill any knowledge or skills gaps before they then move onto the next stage of learning.

Our learning planning is cyclical and knowledge and skills build and layer, topic after topic, across all our subjects. If your child is invited to a Curriculum + session, it means they are at risk of having significant gaps in their learning which once missed, will be hard to retrace and could have an impact on future learning which relies on this piece of knowledge or understanding. Again, please support us in ensuring that your children attend these carefully planned and selected sessions to ensure that they are ready for the next sequence in their learning journey, thank you 😊

Academy Enrichment:

I wanted to list just a few of some of the amazing things our staff and students have been doing this term - this is not exhaustive but gives you a flavour of all we have been doing with and for our students:

- ❖ Launched a new House System and a variety of house competitions
- ❖ Improved our rewards offer for all students with positive ClassCharts points and attendance
- ❖ Launched our Head Boy/Head Girl and Prefect system in year 11
- ❖ Launched our sports leaders programme
- ❖ Launched Football Beyond Borders with students in KS3 who met the England team before they flew out for the World Cup!



- ❖ Various public speakers coming into school to talk with students for example in Health and Social Care
- ❖ High School Musical auditions were a huge success
- ❖ NBA talent show & NBA Christmas Show
- ❖ NBA dance students winning two competitions!
- ❖ Various fund-raising activities for charitable causes e.g. hampers for Christmas
- ❖ Year 11 trip to the College of Food in October
- ❖ Primary students from Nechells experienced the Food Technology room and made Christmas Cookies
- ❖ Sixth formers have taken part in enrichment sessions delivered by TSB and Barclays life skills helping to make the best financial choices for their future preparing them for adult life.
- ❖ We have four students who have been invited for interview for Medicine and one student invited for a Cambridge interview.
- ❖ Social Science students attended a Behind Bars conference where they spoke to ex-convicts about what led them to a life of crime and how decisions they've made have impacted the rest of their lives.
- ❖ Sixth formers raised money for Movember by selling tickets for the first England game.
- ❖ Sixth formers hosted a Teachers Vs Sixth Formers football match raising money for Young Minds charity

December 2022 NBA

- ❖ Our first cohort of Brilliant scholars (years 9-10) went to Oxford for the launch of their programme



As you can see, we have been working hard this term to ensure that NBA offers our students the very best opportunities to widen their horizons and embed old and new traditions. We will continue this good work in the new year alongside our curriculum work.

Teacher training opportunities

Are you interested in teaching or do you know someone who is? Ideally that person should have a degree and a desire to inspire our young people - and we will provide the training and support you need to become a qualified teacher. We are especially interested in those of you who have a Science, languages (Spanish/French preferably) or Maths background. If you are interested to learn more please contact the PA to the headteacher Carole Hill (carole.hill@nba.e-act.org.uk) to express your no obligation interest and we will get back to you.

End/Start of term arrangements

Friday 16th December- Last day of term, Christmas jumpers or cultural dress allowed, Students leave at 12.20 (food will be provided before students leave)

Tuesday 3rd January - Staff INSET – no students

Wednesday 4th January - All students return to school at the usual time

Finally, all that remains is to say thank you for all of your support for our school, staff and students. Your engagement and support makes all the difference and we thank you in advance for your contributions. Have a wonderful festive holiday and stay safe 😊

Best festive wishes

Mrs Michelle Scott