



Head of Academy: Mr P Weir
CEO: Mrs B Mabey

OUR REF: PWE/scl

4th May 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

The Academy has made a very positive start to the summer term. The vast majority of our Year 11 students are working hard in preparation for their examinations and, I am sure, will get the success they deserve.

The Academy will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday 7th May, reopening on Tuesday 8th May at the normal time. School is closed for the week beginning Monday 28th May, reopening as normal on Monday 4th June.

As the weather (hopefully) grows warmer as we approach summer, I would remind everyone that students will be able to remove blazers without asking permission but that there is no change of uniform for the summer term.

With Ramadan approaching, I would draw your attention to one of the highlights of our school year, the Washwood Heath Multi Academy Trust Grand Iftar, which will be held on Thursday 24th May, starting at 7.30pm at the Crystal Plaza on Armoury Road, Small Heath. Tickets are selling fast, so please ensure you purchase yours before they sell out. Entry is by ticket only. This year's event will be the first Trust event where we will welcome two new academies to our family of schools, Firs and Topcliffe primary schools.

Please can I remind parents that it is essential to inform school of any changes to contact details and other important information, such as medical conditions and allergies.

Year 8 are now starting work on the exciting Shakespeare project. This will be completed with the visit to Stratford in July. This is part of the whole school curriculum and students are expected to participate. Part of the visit to Stratford includes a visit to the church and specifically Shakespeare's grave. Normally visitors pay £3, but the church has agreed to receive a donation, to which we are asking each student to make a voluntary contribution of £1. There is no other cost attached to this trip. Thank you to those who have already made this contribution. For Year 10, crucial examinations are approaching. In the final week before half-term, the students have their English Literature examinations and revision should now be a part of their daily routine. They should also be preparing for their ICT examinations, which are after half-term.

Year 11 are now approaching the final stage of their time at Saltley. Students will continue to study in school through most of the examination period. Towards the end of the examination period, parents and carers will receive a text informing them of when Year 11 study leave will begin.

At this point, all students should only attend revision sessions and examinations. They should sign in at reception as visitors for health and safety reasons, but wear full uniform. Once on

study leave, students should not bring their bags to examinations and must understand that bag searches may be undertaken if a reasonable reason for bringing a bag to an examination is not given.

We intend to support students as much as possible through the examination season and urge families to contact us with any concerns. It is obviously very unfortunate that exams fall on the day when it is likely to be Eid. I must emphasise that this is a national decision, which many schools have complained about unsuccessfully. **Therefore, the exams must be taken at the set time.** With all examinations, if students do not attend, families will be charged for their examination entry fee. If a student is ill, then medical evidence from a doctor is essential.

Year 11 have their Prom on the evening of Tuesday 19th June. This is always a wonderful celebration for staff and students to celebrate the years of working together. Further details will follow. I would draw Year 11 parents' attention to my letter of in which I explained the consequences if any students were to fall below the standards of behaviour expected. It must be noted that references for colleges/employers completed by the Academy must accurately reflect the behaviour and attitude of the individuals. It should also be noted that the Academy reserves the right to refuse entry to the Prom and to results day in August.

I know that the vast majority of students will make the most of this final phase, work hard at school and at home and continue to enjoy respectful working relationships with staff, leading to the examination success in the summer they deserve.

With best wishes to all for the Bank Holiday weekend and, to those observing, for Ramadan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Weir', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr P Weir
Head of Academy