

13<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

**Re: Academy Improvement Work**

The final week of our first half term in 2018 has flown so I would like to once again provide you all with some updates about the good work that continues to support our improvement journey.

- Knowledge organisers for next half term have been completed by every department in the academy and these are currently being printed in anticipation for the first week back. We are looking forward to their launch and your feedback. They support our wider strategy around learning from home.
- Our website continues to be updated to include all of the information you should need linking to our academy improvement work. Please do take the time to look at this section on our homepage. Feedback is always welcomed.
- 150 families have now signed up for the free parent app. Please send in your email details if you haven't already done so. This facility is an incredibly useful one as you can access your son/daughter's timetable and we can send all correspondence through the app. You can also access ParentPay through the app. As more families join we will look to add extra functionality to this to continue to keep lines of communication open with you all.
- We have appointed a new Catering Manager: Mr Watt is working with the team to steer continued improvements across our catering provision for all students.
- Aspirations surveys have been carried out across every year group within the academy; more work will continue to address this as the academic year progressed.
- Staffordshire University sent a fully equipped bus up to our site on 5<sup>th</sup> February giving Year 10 and Year 12 an insight into university life. The bus had a virtual reality experience downstairs and the top floor was dedicated to careers and university.
- A Careers Fair, with over 40 stands, is being hosted at the academy on 13<sup>th</sup> February. The event arranged by our Careers Advisor, will provide a useful opportunity for students to consider career options. Every student will be invited along throughout the day so that our students can begin to map their futures.
- Year and Academy Council meetings have taken place to ensure we are listening to our students' voices. Feedback has been incredibly positive; particularly with reference to the RESPECT code and how behaviour has improved this academic year as a direct result of this.
- Year 10 are all to be interviewed by members of the senior leadership team week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> February to discuss their current progress and intentions for study after Year 11.
- Year 10 and 11 have attended an 'Ace your exams' session providing them all with independent advice from a company called 'Elevate'. We hope this was a useful investment of time for all of the students and evaluations of the event will be undertaken.
- The countdown continues: 50 days until Year 11 exams begin event is to be held in the academy hall from 6pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February. We hope to see as many students with their families as possible as we continue to work together to ensure preparations for exams are well under way.

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<b>Dates for diaries</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Academy reopens
<b>27<sup>th</sup> February, 5.30-6pm</b>	Spot-light on reading event – details to follow
<b>27<sup>th</sup> February, 6-7pm</b>	Parents' Forum meeting. Agenda: Careers update; School Comms Parent – update; tracking progress/attainment, plus anything else you would like to discuss.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	World Book Day, Heroes and Villains. We hope costumes are at the ready!
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	NEC Careers Fair; sixth form visit
<b>5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 mock examinations. Years 7, 8 and 9 mid-year exams
<b>20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Our academy show, Beauty and the Beast, 6pm each evening. Ticket information to follow next half term.
<b>27<sup>th</sup> March, 6-7pm</b>	Parents' Forum
<b>28<sup>th</sup> March, 4-6.30pm</b>	Year 11 Parents' Evening
<b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Break up for Easter; 12pm finish for students
<b>29<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	Paris visit

As always, your support and feedback is welcomed. If you would like to discuss any of the work we are completing please contact the academy via our PA [lheelis@suacademy.co.uk](mailto:lheelis@suacademy.co.uk)

Yours sincerely

*R. Hillier.*

Mrs. R. Hillier  
Principal