



Class Changes

In order to ensure that all our Year Six pupils are well prepared for the SATs in May 2016, we are implementing some changes to the way that we are going to be managing their day as from Monday 30th November.

Firstly, we will be swapping around the duties of Mrs Abell and Miss Brinkworth so that Mrs Abell will now become head of year five (assisted by Mrs Schofield) and Miss Brinkworth will become head of year six.

Secondly, we will be swapping around some class teachers so that these are the new class teacher allocations:

- VI Cambridge – Mr F Mitting (no change)
- VI York – Miss Brinkworth
- VI Leeds – Mrs Farrow
- VI Warwick – Mrs Curtis and Mrs Hughes
- VI Oxford – Mr Hussain
- V Leeds – Mrs Abell and Mrs Choudhury

Finally, all year six pupils will be taught for the remainder of this academic year in separate maths and English classes so that we can best match the particular skills of each teacher with the needs of the pupils. The changes of class teacher will also enable us to run six sets for maths and English so that pupils have the opportunity to be taught in smaller classes.

Apologies for any disruption/disappointment that this may cause but we are confident that this is the best arrangement for our pupils.



Wendy Baxter
Principal

A good start to the academy day

As I mentioned in the last newsletter we are having a campaign to encourage pupils to be 'just 5 minutes earlier'. This has already had a big impact and the number of pupils arriving late has approximately halved. However, we are still concerned that some pupils are struggling to get to the academy on time. We will therefore be starting to note late arrivals on our registration system as from this week. Any pupil who arrives late on 10 or more occasions in any term may be referred to Birmingham CC as their parents can be fined for this. We want to work with our parents to make sure that no fines are necessary.



Topics for this half term

This half term our topics are being delivered in a slightly different way to before. For year 5 and year 6 pupils these are delivered as part of their 'Wow Wednesdays' and for year 3 and year 4 pupils these are delivered as part of their 'Fantastic Fridays'. The topics for each year group this half term are as follows:

- Year III – Vikings
- Year IV – Romans
- Year V – Expeditions
- Year VI - Heroes



Parents' evening

Thank you for all the positive feedback that we had concerning the arrangements for parents' evening. We hope that you will agree that the event was well managed, thanks to our great administrative team. A small number of appointments had to be cancelled on the day due to Miss Akhtar being unwell. We will contact affected parents over the next few days to rearrange these.

As we tried to explain to parents on the evening, this year is a very unusual one in terms of SATs results as it is the first year that the new national curriculum standards are being tested and also they will not be reported as national curriculum levels as they have previously. However, until the first year of SATs papers are completed and the marks are in, the government will not publish the grade range or expected results. Therefore all that we currently know, in common with the rest of the UK, is that the standard will be much higher than previously but we are unable to predict for individual pupils what their likely results will be.

Using Small Heath Library

On Friday 13th November Mrs Baxter went to meet Mr Mo Bains and his wonderful staff at Small Heath Library. The library has a number of computers that are available for our children to use outside of academy hours, if they want to get in some additional practice on Lexia and Maths Whizz. Parents will need to register their child with the library first and will need to show some form of ID with their application, but this is a simple process and their library card should be available within a few days of doing this. Computers can be pre-booked for us by children at specific times or you can just turn up and if there is one available then you will be able to use it.

Safeguarding – “Everybody’s business”

This week is National Road Safety Week 2015 and the theme of the week is ‘Drive Less, Live More’. Children have heard about the importance of crossing the road carefully in this week’s assembly.

Dates for your diary

Due to having a number of new teachers start in the academy in January, we have decided to have a change around of our training days. We will now therefore be closed for three days of training from 4th to 6th January 2016 with the academy re-opening to pupils on Thursday 7th January at the usual time. We will now therefore be open to pupils on Thursday 11th February which was previously advertised as a training day.

Other dates for your diary:

Wednesday 16th Dec – Y3 performance in the hall at 09:00 followed by mince pies and hot drinks.

Wednesday 16th Dec – Xmas lunch in the academy for all pupils (pupils who normally bring a packed lunch can take Xmas lunch if they wish) and staff.

Friday 18th Dec – The academy closes at 13:00 for the holidays, opening to pupils again on Thursday 7th January 2016 at 08:00

Chess Club Competition

On Friday 20th November ten of our pupils together with two teachers went to a chess club competition at King Edward’s School. This is an amazing achievement for these pupils who have only started to learn the game of chess this term through their membership of the chess club. The pupils did the academy proud and behaved impeccably throughout the afternoon. Well done to them all.

