

Head of School: Mr P White
Executive Headteacher: Mr P Weir
CEO: Dr B Mabey

Our Ref: PWT/jmc

20th July 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As another challenging academic year draws to a close, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support of the College. Covid-19 has certainly presented us with numerous problems to solve and the requirement to respond rapidly to change. It has tested the resilience of parents, carers, students and staff alike. I am sure, like us, you are hoping for a disruption free academic year in 2021-22, with a semblance of normality restored and the usual enriching opportunities and events fully available to students.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the recent achievements at Saltley, as so much has been accomplished during the summer term despite the challenges presented by Covid-19. For example:

- Our Rights Respecting Gold re-accreditation assessment. I'm pleased to confirm that we have been awarded the highest Gold level again, which we will use to promote our "Students' Voice" and continue to campaign on key issues such as the environment and protecting the rights of others less fortunate.
- Running a mini exam series for Years 11, followed by marking, moderating, grading, checking and submission of around 2000 grades to the examination boards. All indications suggest we are on target for our students to gain the Teacher Assessed Grades without moderation. We will learn the outcome on the 12th August with the Year 11 pupils.
- Modifying transition events for Year 6 so that they could go ahead, giving students the chance to meet key members of staff and get to know the layout of the Academy site. In addition to this, 110 Year 6 students will be joining us for an action-packed summer school for one week from the 22nd of July, helping them transition to the Academy for September.
- A successful and inclusive Activity Sports Day, with an excellent rate of participation, the winner being Alhazen House.
- A reprise of the annual House Cup football tournament, with Cadbury and Curie Houses being triumphant.
- A week-long Careers, Advice and Guidance programme for Year 10 pupils, to supplement the work experience week that could not take place. This involved mock interviews, employers from The Army, HS2 and Webinars from Universities.
- Summer performance of Macbeth which took place in school this year rather than in Stratford.
- Workshops with Birmingham Hippodrome for our GCSE Drama students.
- Two PSHE days and several follow-up sessions guided by student voice.

September Return Dates/Testing on Return

Thursday 2nd September – INSET – no pupils in school

Friday 3rd September – Year 7 return

Monday 6th September – Years 10 and 11 return

Tuesday 7th September – Years 8 and 9 return

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Pupils will be asked to return only on their assigned day, and all pupils that we hold consent for will be tested at our on-site test centre at some point during their first day back. The second round of testing will follow once all pupils have returned.

We would like to ask all pupils to complete a home test the night before their return to school so that we can reduce any risk of transmission as early as possible.

Please note – these are the arrangements as things currently stand, and it is possible (if not likely) that government guidelines may change over the course of the summer. We will, of course, keep you updated with any changes.

New Timings for the School Day

08:20 – 08:30 – Arrival/Line up

08:30 – 08:55 – Registration

08:55 – 09:10 – Book Club

09:10 – 10:10 – Period 1

10:10 – 11:10 – Period 2

11:10 – 11:40 – Break 1

11:40 – 12:40 – Period 3

12:40 – 13:10 – Break 2

13:10 – 14:10 – Period 4

14:10 – 15:10 – Period 5

The new timings above allow for two half hour breaks in the day for every pupil, and we are confident this will be a welcome enhancement to the limited amounts of social time that the covid restrictions have dictated over the past year. **The end of the school day will now return to the pre-covid finish time of 15:10.**

An Introduction to Jemison House

As our school community continues to grow, September will see the introduction of a 7th House. Our rights respecting steering group, which is made up of a selection of elected pupils were given the opportunity to discuss and explore an appropriate role model to best represent the new house values and ethos. After much deliberation the pupils arrived at a decision to name the 7th House after Mae Jemison – an American engineer, physician, former NASA astronaut and the first African American woman in space.

Testing

Over the last few days we have provided students with a supply of home testing kits sufficient to last for the whole six weeks holidays if continuing to test twice weekly. We strongly encourage families to continue with regular testing – case rates are currently unprecedentedly high in the area, and even though children are not in school, transmission rates will remain high - we urge you to take every measure possible to stay safe. Free test kits are also available from local pharmacies as well as online from www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests.

Our local football club have been commissioned by Birmingham City Council to deliver a summer camp through Pitch 2 Progress CIC and Saltley Stallions Football Club.

Young people who have access to free school meals are able to take advantage of the summer camp offer which will include lunch and dinner starting from Monday August 2nd, Monday to Saturday each day from 12-7pm.

They can cater for up to 60 young people each day. If interested, you will need to register by either emailing Haf@pitch2progress.co.uk or send a dm on Instagram https://instagram.com/pitch2progress?utm_medium=copy_link

Spaces will be on a first come first served basis for years 7 to 11.

The Local Authority will be providing free school meal students with a one-off voucher covering the summer holidays period (4 weeks) which will be posted out today. Also BCC are organising holiday activities which is open to all students that may wish to participate. All the information will be on our school website.

I would like to wish you all a Eid al-adha al-mubarak.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. White', written in a cursive style.

Mr P White
Head of School