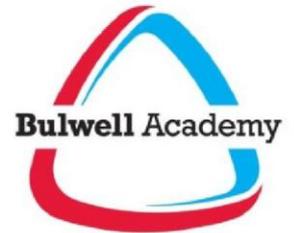


30 August 2017



Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to introduce myself, inform you about developments at the Academy and clarify my expectations over the year.

It is an absolute pleasure to have been given the opportunity to lead The Bulwell Academy and I am very excited about what we can achieve working together. I have enjoyed working a couple of days a week since the start of June to get to understand how the Academy operates, meet students and staff and prepare for next year. I have met some wonderful students and a capable team of staff who are totally committed to providing opportunities for your child.

Parents can be confident that my commitment is to teachers being able to teach and students being able to learn. Learning is the most important thing at Bulwell because we know that your child will achieve their best when they concentrate fully on what is being taught. Students who disrupt the learning of others can expect teachers to take swift action to ensure such behaviour stops and if this does not happen sanctions will be applied. I will expect positive support from parents, which might include being invited in during the day to secure full cooperation when required. And I expect your child to do as teachers ask without question.

Exam Results

With enormous changes to the examination syllabus and standards to contend with, our Year 11 students performed very well this Summer and have improved upon last year with 32.7% of students gaining 5 A*-C grades (Including English and Maths). Art, Construction and PE have done exceptionally well, each with over 80% pass rate. Year 13 also improved on last year with 54% students gaining three qualifications at A*-C, compared to 29% last year.

Start of term

Year 7 report at **12.00 noon** and Year 12 at **1.00 pm on Tuesday 5 September**. Year 11 will be on work experience during the first week and return on **Monday 11 September**. All other years report for the start of term at 8.20 am on **Wednesday 6 September** for a prompt start at 8.30 am.

Attendance

Your child should set a personal target of nil absence for the year. Missing lessons leads to learners falling behind classmates and slows progress. Term dates have been enclosed to ensure you can plan family holidays around the school terms. Please understand that I am unable to agree to leave of absence. When students are persistently absent you can expect the Academy to instigate the process of legal action.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Please encourage your child to take part in our extra-curricular programme after school that will help them learn more, feel part of the school and develop more quickly.

Serious Reminder

Please understand that the Academy has a zero tolerance to drugs and dangerous weapons. It has been a disappointment to governors when they have had to permanently exclude students who have brought these on to the Academy site. We take very seriously our responsibility to protect your child from any danger. Reference should be made to the Behaviour Policy that can be found on our website and note that undesirable behaviour off site can also lead to permanent exclusion from the Academy.

Mobile phones

The Academy accepts no responsibility for any personal possessions brought on to the site. Mobile phones disturb learning and create conflict between students, and their use is banned on site. We recognise that it can be a comfort for parents, knowing that contact can be made in an emergency when travelling to and from the Academy, we therefore will allow phones, turned off in a bag or pocket, but they should never be seen. Students will have their phone confiscated if it is seen disturbing learning.

Chewing Gum

Discarded chewing gum is a health hazard when left where others hands might make contact with it. It also becomes a drain on finances when damage is caused to uniform, carpets, paving and tarmac when cleaning or replacement is required.

Being Prepared

We will expect your child to be walking through the gate before 8.20 am each day in full uniform, with a smile on their face with the correct equipment, sports kit when necessary and ready to learn.

Contacting the Academy

Please remember that your child's tutor should be the first point of contact when you have concerns. More serious issues should be referred to the Head of Year or a Vice Principal.

Additional information and news can be found on the Academy website: www.bulwellacademy.co.uk.

Please go through the information covered in this letter with your child to ensure they are familiar with our expectations and well prepared for the start of term. We are looking forward to a successful year filled with excitement and challenges. The Meet the Tutor Evening on **Wednesday 13 September 4.00-6 pm** presents a wonderful opportunity to discuss your child's education. I will be available at the Meet the Tutor evening should you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter, or your child's education at the Academy.

Yours sincerely



V Maher
Principal