

ALEC REED ACADEMY



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Acting Principal and CEO: Phil Cosby

9th February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

It doesn't seem possible but next week will be the Spring half term; the academic year is certainly flying by at speed. I take this opportunity to bring you up to speed with some current initiatives that are taking place within the academy.

Applications for September 2022

Year 6 Parents will know that your child has a 'right of passage' into the secondary phase and the vast majority of you have already taken up this opportunity. Year 11 pupils are currently completing their applications for our Sixth Form. I do though draw attention to the fact that we are nearly full in our Reception Class for September 2022 and encourage you to register as quickly as possible. Failure to do so may leave your child at risk of not getting a place.

The Intervention Programme

We continue to place a high level of focus on reducing the gaps that have developed between pupils' chronological and reading ages by extending our reading programmes in both the Primary and Secondary Phases. This is starting to have an effect, but it is important that you provide your child with the opportunity to read at home. The local Northolt library is well stocked with books that are age specific and can help your child develop their vocabulary. I encourage you to use this valuable resource to supplement the books that are loaned by the academy.

With the evenings getting lighter we have introduced more after school clubs and activities for all year groups. This includes revision workshops for students that are facing examinations in the summer as well as specialist tutoring opportunities for students in Year 8 and Year 12.

Attendance

I am very pleased to report that our attendance figures remain higher than national averages and many of our students have not missed a single day of school since our return in September. This should be celebrated and the pupils congratulated. However, the government is concerned regarding the number of pupils across the country that have attendance below 90%. We, like many schools, will be working with our families to try and minimise student absence. If children are not in school then the gaps in their knowledge will only grow wider, leaving them at a greater level of disadvantage.

Parent Evenings

During the week **commencing Monday 7th March** there will be parental meetings for all primary phase students. Year 7 parent meeting are organised for Thursday 10th March. We will confirm closer to the date how these events will be organised in terms of in-person or on-line.

'The Collins PiXL Award for Outstanding Progress' National Award Winners 2014



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Routes to Employment

I am pleased to announce that in partnership with Reed Employment Agency, we now offer a 'Route to Employment Training Programme' to our Sixth Form students. The programme provides access to Reed's most relevant school leaver jobs and recruitment as well as digital work experience, free courses, support with CV writing, mock interviews and feedback. This will be invaluable for these students and ties in nicely with the letter from, Alex Burghart, Minister for Skills that I shared with all parents of year 11,12 and 13 students this week. The letter which coincides with National Apprenticeships Week 2022 encouraged students and parents to consider apprenticeships when they are thinking about career choices and included links to local apprenticeship opportunities.

Life-Long Learning Opportunities for Parents and the Wider Community

Learning is a life-long process and many of you will already be aware that in conjunction with the Learning Institute we offer Foundation Degrees in Learning and Education, Early Years Professional, Mental Health of Children and Young People, and Inclusive Education. Further information on the courses is available here - <https://www.learninginstitute.co.uk/our-courses>. You may also be interested to know that through Government Funding West London College have several free online Level 2 Accredited NVQ courses available to help adults better understand key areas around young people's wellbeing and neurodiversity.

The following subjects are available, along with many others you may be interested in:

- **Adverse Childhood Experiences** – Introduction into childhood struggles caused by events such as divorces, bereavements, domestic violence, etc.
- **Safeguarding and Prevent** - Understanding your duty of prevent and increases awareness of online safety and safeguarding.
- **Specific Learning Difficulties** – Understanding characteristics of ADHD, ADD, Dyslexia and Dyscalculia.
- **Children and Young Peoples Mental Health** – Exploring children's mental health (identifying early signs, triggers and strategies of communication).
- **Understanding Autism** – In-depth look into the various spectrums and how autism impacts the individuals day-to-day.
- **Function Skills Maths, English and ICT** - Obtaining your A*- C grade in Mathematics, English and ICT.
- **Mental Health First Aid and Advocacy in the Workplace** - Developing the skills and traits required to become a qualified mental health first aider.

The courses can last anywhere from 3 - 8 weeks and are completed on a self-study basis, meaning you are free to make your own schedules and can access your material online at any time. **You can do as many courses as you'd like**, however, you can only do one at a time. To be eligible to apply you must be: Aged 19+, lived in the UK/EU for a minimum of 3 years, not already enrolled on a government-funded course/apprenticeship

If you are generally interested in this opportunity then secure your place via the link [Registration Link - Alec Reed Academy For more information please contact Shola on shola.olla@theaimgroup.co.uk](#).

Free Breakfast Clubs

I remind you that all pupils **return to school on Monday 21st February 2022**. From this date onwards we intend to have a **FREE** Breakfast Club running across both phases of the academy with bagels and breakfast cereals available to the children from 7.45am onwards. I also remind you that if your child is entitled to FSM then Ealing is administering vouchers over the half term.

As we near the end of winter and see the first buds of Spring it is important to celebrate the opportunities that this brings. I wish you all the best for the half term and beyond and look forward to our continued journey back to normality.

With kind regards

**Phil Cosby
Acting Principal & CEO**