

ALEC REED ACADEMY



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CEO & Principal: Allison Moise-Dixon

8th January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take the opportunity to first wish you a happy New Year and hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas break with family and friends.

I know that Mr Lobbett confirmed my appointment last term in a letter to parents/carers but I wanted to introduce myself to you as early as possible and to share with you some of my personal values, expectations and vision which will underpin the way in which the academy continues to move forward.

Personal values

I am passionate about education and its ability to make a difference in the lives of our children and young people. I have worked in education for almost twenty years and so to an extent, I have never left school! My own educational provision was varied when I went to school in East London in the 1980s and 1990s, however, there were amazing teachers who inspired me to want to achieve more than I had thought possible. It is my personal experience which has shaped my commitment to my professional path. Prior to taking up my post at Alec Reed Academy, I had been Headteacher of a secondary school in North East London and Chief Accounting Officer of a two school MAT (Multi Academy Trust) which included a primary school.

I believe that all children, regardless of race, gender, class, background or any other protected characteristic should have access to an excellent holistic education that inspires, motivates and supports young people to achieve to the best of their ability. It is this education that will prepare them for life when they leave the academy and support them to have and to make positive choices in their lives.

I have always worked in diverse communities where there has been deprivation and challenges to face but have always found students, staff and parents who were willing to work in partnership to achieve the very best for children. I refuse to accept that students with the right attitude and support cannot achieve at the highest levels. On every occasion, along with a committed team, we have impacted positively on outcomes for young people. It is not rocket science! High expectations, excellent attendance and punctuality, excellent behaviour for learning, excellent levels of teaching and learning equals happy, confident and successful learners. Having worked as a senior leader across a range of schools and at local authority level I know that maintaining the highest levels of expectations and discipline is key to student success.

Expectations

Positive behaviour for learning from students is vital. Having visited the academy a few times over the last term, many students display positive behaviour for learning and it is having a significant impact on their excellent achievement. Where underachievement exists, this is largely down to students not yet displaying the behaviour needed to advance their learning. It is unfair when

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students are not only disrupting their own learning but the learning of others. Whilst students will be supported to adopt the positive behaviours that the academy requests so that learning can take place for all students, students who persistently continue to refuse to accept support to improve their behaviour and disrupt the learning of others will be dealt with swiftly in accordance with our behaviour policy.

Of course, we will always continue to work with parents/carers closely but your support is invaluable. You will know your child better than anyone and therefore, I would strongly encourage all parents to remind students of the following basic expectations:

- All students should arrive to the academy on time and in full academy uniform
- All students should arrive at the academy ready to learn with the correct equipment for each lesson on any given day
- All students should remember and show the academy values of respect, honesty and kindness
- All students should follow the instructions of any adult
- All students should work to the best of their ability in all lessons and ask for help if they need it
- All students should be polite and courteous to all within the academy community including those who visit us at the academy

As we are working with young people, we know that there will be times when things do not go to plan and we have an excellent pastoral system to support students on these occasions. Again, we rely on our relationships with parents to contact us if anything is happening with your child that may affect their behaviour and attitude to learning so that we can proactively support. However, every student should understand that they are expected to behave well and that this is a basic expectation if they expect to achieve well. Self-discipline is a life skill.

Vision

The academy had a very successful Ofsted inspection in June 2018 and was judged to be 'good' in all categories. I am committed to continuing the improvement journey on which the academy has been towards 'outstanding.' This is vital to avoid complacency as we strive to always look at how we can improve the educational experience of every child who walks through our doors. I want our students to enjoy coming to the academy not only because they have made great friends but because they are happy, safe and are able to be resilient enough in their learning to trust that their teachers will do all they can to support them to achieve their very best.

I would also welcome a greater level of involvement from parents. As the first teachers of your children, your knowledge is invaluable and research overwhelming shows that positive parental involvement has a significant impact and influence on how well students do at school. I will be holding some 'meet the new Principal and CEO' sessions at different times in the day over the next few weeks to hear parents' thoughts about the academy and ways in which we can improve parental involvement. These dates will be sent to you shortly. As a parent myself and aunty and great aunt to fifteen, I know how both complex and rewarding parenting can be!

I am very excited about working with the whole academy community in the pursuit of excellence and seeing our children and young people excel and achieve their dreams. It will only be reached with hard work, focus and commitment but I and the staff at Alec Reed Academy have the energy, passion and drive to make it happen and hope you will join us on the journey.

With warm regards

Mrs A. Moise-Dixon
Principal and CEO