

ALEC REED ACADEMY



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Acting Principal and CEO: Phil Cosby

28th May 2021

Dear Parent Carer,

I hope that you are all keeping well and enjoying the slight relaxation in the Covid rules, and that the recent wet weather hasn't impacted too heavily on your plans and dampened your enthusiasm for once again enjoying life's somewhat forgotten pleasures of meeting friends and family. The weather forecast for the half term break is more favourable and I hope that this means we will be able to spend more time outdoors and benefit from the long evenings that we get at this time of year.

However, it is important that we continue to take appropriate precautions as set out by the government. Ealing still has one of the highest infection rates in the country and as a result, surge testing has been announced for the Southall area and this may well be extended into Northolt after half term. I strongly urge you to continue with the twice weekly home LFD testing, reporting your results to the school and to the NHS. We can all still be asymptomatic carriers of the Coronavirus, even if we have had one or both vaccinations and must maintain habits of regular handwashing and social distancing to keep on protecting ourselves and others.

Our pupils return to school on Tuesday 8th June as we have a Professional Development Day on Monday 7th June. In the primary phase staff will be using this day to plan the curriculum for the next academic year to ensure that any gaps in learning are closed as quickly as possible. In the secondary phase teaching staff will be determining grades for our Year 11 and 13 students based on assessment evidence, following the cancellation of exams. Over recent weeks the teachers have been working exceptionally hard to mark, moderate and quality assure the assessments that have taken place. I cannot thank them enough for the dedication and attention they are giving to this process.

After half term our Year 11 students will undertake bridging courses to prepare them for their Sixth Form study at ARA. Students that remain at the academy will also be given a laptop so that they can supplement in school classes with online learning. We are also organising special events for our Year 6, 11 and 13 pupils to celebrate their achievements and recognise the 'right of passage' as they move from one chapter of their learning journey to the next.

Primary parents will have seen the gradual progress on the Gatehouse project and whilst this is running slightly behind schedule the building will be fully up and running by our return in September. There will be other building projects taking place over the summer holiday including the redevelopment of the Year 2 playground. I encourage parents to get in touch if they have any ideas or views in ways in which we could improve our facilities so

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that we can take these into consideration in our improvement plan for the next academic year. I am particularly keen to hear ways in which we could further enhance our 'play' facilities in both the nursery and secondary social areas.

I wrote to you recently regarding some gas works taking place on Bengarth Road. We have recently been provided with an update from the contractor who has stated that the work will now progress further and will start to take effect next week and continue into the weeks after. There will be a four-way traffic light system in operation. It is likely to cause severe disruption to the roads surrounding the Academy. Can I please urge you and your children to allow more time in which to get to school in the morning. Given the improvement in the weather, it may be even better to travel on foot if this is possible.

Today I have been contacted by our Safer Schools Officer who has asked that I remind of the rules surrounding E-Scooters. I am enclosing a copy of a document and would ask you to speak to your children and make them aware of the law regarding the use of these scooters.

Finally, I remind you that whilst I understand that we would all like a vacation to relax and recharge our batteries I cannot approve a term time holiday and this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Should you be looking to book a holiday abroad during August then you also need to take note of the Government guidelines regarding quarantine and COVID testing as some countries remain high risk in terms of the rates of infection for Covid-19.

Have a restful break,
With kind regards

Phil Cosby
Acting Principal & CEO