

ALEC REED ACADEMY

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CEO and Principal: Gary Lobbett

December 2018



Dear Parents and Carers

As the Christmas break rapidly approaches, I write in order to thank you for your support and for joining pupils and staff at the numerous events and performances that have been held during the Autumn term.

Introduction

Mrs Moise-Dixon will join the Academy as Principal and CEO from January 2019 immediately following the Christmas Break and has met with many pupils and staff during the term in order to ensure that a seamless transition is secured during this time of change. Mrs Moise-Dixon is an experienced Headteacher and I feel sure that her arrival will mark the start of a new and highly successful next phase for the Academy. I wish Mrs Moise-Dixon every success in her new role.

Congratulations on Recent Events

The popular musical 'Fame' was performed to a capacity audience in November. Congratulations to all pupils involved in the production and thank you to both pupils and staff for the many hours of practise and preparation that are required in order to produce a performance of such a high standard and unforgettable experience for us all.

On Tuesday 4th December, parents of foundation stage pupils were treated to the most wonderful performance of 'Humph the Camel'. The acting and singing were sensational, and the confidence of the children and their focus and concentration really sparked! The volume of the pupils' voices when remembering their lines, really allowed the clarity of the story to be shared, despite being in a huge theatre. It was heartening to see so many parents there to support their children and share these precious memories.

Not to be missed!

<u>Year group</u>	<u>Date of performance</u>	<u>Time of performance</u>	<u>Name of performance</u>
Foundation Stage: Nursery & Reception	04/12/18	9:30-10:30 14:00 -15:00	Humph the Camel
Key Stage 1: Year 1 & 2	07/12/18	9:30-10:30 14:00 -15:00	Christmas Movies
Year 3:	10/12/18	9:30-10:30 14:00 -15:00	Xmas Factor
Year 4:	11/12/18	9:30-10:30 14:00 -15:00	Christmas Films
Year 5:	14/12/18	9:30-10:30 14:00 -15:00	Christmas around the world
Year 6:	13/12/18	9:30-10:30 14:00 -15:00	Grinch and the 3 little pigs

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



There will also be a **Christmas Show on 13th December**. The evening will include an informal recital of solo performers including pupils studying for their GCSE and A Level music examinations. Performances will commence at 3:15 in the Reed Theatre.

This year's **Primary Christmas Fayre** takes place on **Thursday 13th December from 3.30pm to 4.45pm** in the Primary Arc. This is always a very successful event and we look forward to welcoming parents and families into the Academy to enjoy this festive occasion.

Careers

I am pleased to inform you that the Academy has successfully completed the **Quality Careers Standard, Stage 2**. On Friday 6th December the Academy will complete the assessment for the full **Quality Careers Standard Award**. Good luck and thank you to everyone involved in the application.

Forthcoming Examinations for pupils in Years 6, 11, 12 and 13

The many recent changes to national examination and qualification frameworks affect all pupils in Year 6, 11, 12 and 13 and it is important to know precisely how well your child is progressing. I hope you will be able to join staff for the parent evenings and events for your child scheduled during the spring and summer terms (please find full details published on the website).

Mock exams were held in November for all Year 11 and Post 16 students - there will be further mock exams for all subjects in January. It is essential that Year 11-13 students develop a frequent and regular programme of personal study and revision: this should include a programme of independent study and practice during the Christmas holiday period. Should any further details or information be required in order to support your child at home, please contact members of staff at the Academy at any time.

The **Year 8 Parents Evening and Option Pathways Information Evening** is taking place on **Thursday 17th January at 6.00pm** and staff look forward to welcoming all Year 8 parents into the Academy on that day. A separate letter giving further details of Option Pathways will be provided by Mrs Franklin after the Christmas break.

End of Term Arrangements

Christmas Lunch will be served for Primary Pupils on **Monday 10th December** and for **High School Pupils** on **Tuesday 11th December**. The cost of Christmas lunch will be £3.50 for all pupils except Free School Meals and Pupils from Reception to Year 2. Please ensure that your child has sufficient funds on ParentPay to pay for their lunch. If your child does not wish to have Christmas lunch, please make sure that they bring a packed lunch with them on the day as there will only be a limited number of sandwiches on the days that Christmas lunch is served.

Christmas Jumper Day – Save the Children

In recognition of pupils' hard work and effort **All Academy Pupils** are invited to wear a **Christmas jumper and/or a Christmas hat on Friday 14th December**. By doing so we will all be supporting the national **Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day**. As the national advertisement tells us 'just stick on a silly sweater and donate to save children's lives'. Pupils choosing to participate in the event will be asked to make any donations they can. Only jumpers and/or hat are optional. All pupils **must wear the school uniform for all other items of clothing**. Normal rules regarding shoes, jewellery and hair style will apply. It is Christmas Jumper (and/or Hat!) Day only.

Please ensure that your child has the full **ARA uniform**. It is also important that pupils **wear the uniform well**. All uniform will be checked carefully during the first week back of term. Please ensure that your child has all items of uniform required including their lanyard and that all skirts and trousers are the appropriate style.

The Academy closes for the Christmas break to all pupils of both Primary and Secondary Phases on **Tuesday 18th December at the earlier time of 1.15 p.m.**

We have Staff Development Days on Thursday 3rd January and Friday 4th January. **Staff at the Academy will be welcoming back all pupils at the usual time on the morning of Monday 7th January.**

Farewell

This is my final term in post as CEO and Principal. The past five years have travelled very quickly indeed. I have enjoyed my time at ARA immensely and will take with me many fond memories of the Academy and all of the pupils, families and members of staff associated with our primary and secondary schools.

I am delighted by the achievements of our pupils and staff. By working hard together over the years, we have seen the Academy grow to become a very popular choice of primary and secondary education for families in Ealing. Staff commitment extends well beyond the school day to provide a wide range of community sports and activities during the evenings, weekends and school holidays. It has been a great pleasure to be part of such a thriving learning community.

ARA pupils have celebrated excellent SATs, GCSE and A Level examination results. I have also taken immense pride in the achievements in the graduation of our adult learners for their Foundation and Bachelor of Arts Degrees accredited by Worcester University.

There have been two Ofsted inspections of the Academy during the past five years. Firstly in 2015 and again in June 2018. Pupils captured so effectively our aims and purpose when they told inspectors about the sense of togetherness they feel across the Academy: 'teachers make sure no one is left behind' and 'everyone looks out for each other'. The inspectors described the Academy as inclusive school 'that is demonstrated in the way pupils show respect for each other...this results in a united school community where the core values of kindness, respect and honesty are shown in all aspects of school life'. These are the traits for success and the outcomes of a committed, shared endeavour: a strong sense of values and shared purpose coupled with excellent academic outcomes across all age groups and phases of the school.

I am immensely proud of our Academy, our staff and our students and I shall leave ARA with an overwhelming gratitude for the privilege that it has been to share these years with ARA's history.

In closing, I thank you once more for your all your support over the years. I wish you an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I wish you and your families every success and happiness in the future.

Kind regards

Gary Lobbett
CEO & Principal