

ALEC REED ACADEMY



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Principal and CEO: Allison Moise-Dixon

December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

As the Christmas break rapidly approaches, it is a time to reflect on the year that has just gone by. Whilst it seems to have gone very quickly, there have been a number of changes and improvements made across the academy as we keep our key focus in mind – keeping our children safe and ensuring that they learn the skills and knowledge needed to progress in their lives beyond the academy.

I want to thank you for your continued support throughout the year and for informing the ways in which the academy seeks to move forward on our journey towards being an outstanding educational provision. We are proud of the diversity of our students, the hard work that they have put in this year in learning as well as the range of ways in which we have been able to recognise their individual achievements and talents as part our wider academy and local community. The children and young people are a credit to you!

Our year 11 and 13 students have completed mock exams and we were delighted with the way in which they focused and revised in the lead up to the exams. They will receive feedback in the next few days to inform their revision over the Christmas break and into the New Year. Some students have BTEC exams when they return from the Christmas break (predominantly year 13 and Year 11 Sport) so please do discuss these with your child.

I thank you in advance for joining our children, young people and staff at the numerous events and performances that you will attend in the coming days before the end of term.

Trips and Events this Term

There have been a whole range of trips and events that have taken place across the academy community this term. Year 1 had the delight of Shrek's Adventure in central London, Year 3 the pleasure of visiting an urban farm whilst year 6 visited the British Museum. Selected students in year 7 and 8 took part in the Debate Mate Launch. Earlier in the term, a group of 30 Year 10 pupils took part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. This involved them taking a day's masterclass in public speaking and then competing with each other at the end of the day. From that day five finalists were chosen all of whom received further coaching before speaking to their peers in assembly. Judged by the Year 10 pastoral team, Christopher Kersov was crowned the ARA winner with Aaqib Khan as the runner up. Christopher will now take part in the regional finals at Greenford High School in February. We look forward to telling you more in the New Year. A range of students from KS4 and KS5 took part in an educational research project launched during Black History Month, a group of year 10 students went to Oxford University and year 11 GCSE students went to a GCSE Religious Studies Conference. There have also been a variety of careers events within the academy for students including a collaborative project with John Chilton School which has worked very well and further supports the inclusive nature of our co-location.

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



Christmas Performances in the Primary Phase of the Academy take place at the following times:

Joint Year 1 and 2 performance, **Tuesday 10th December** from 9:30am -10:30am and 2pm – 3pm
Joint Nursery and Reception performance, **Friday 13th December** 9:30am -10:30am and 2pm – 3pm

This year's **Primary Christmas Fayre** takes place this **Thursday 12th 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.

There will also be a **Christmas Showcase in the Secondary Phase on Tuesday 17th December**. The evening will include an informal recital of solo performers including students studying for their GCSE and A Level music examinations. Performances will commence at 5:30pm prompt in the Reed Theatre.

Advanced Notice – All Year 8 parents!

The **Year 8 Option Pathways Information Evening for parents and pupils** is taking place on **Thursday 16th January**. **From 5.30pm there will be a short talk on the options process. From 5.30 -7pm, there will be the opportunity to see as many option subjects as possible and to meet with subject staff and students currently taking their GCSEs in these courses. Please be prompt.** 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 Ms Tinsley after the Christmas break.

End of Term Arrangements

Christmas Lunch was served for Primary Pupils on **Monday 10th December** and for **High School Pupils** on **Tuesday 11th December**. It was a lovely occasion with staff, former students and sixth form students on hand to hand out crackers, cutlery and clear plates away. We are very grateful to our restaurant staff for providing such a delicious meal and for creating a wonderful atmosphere for all the academy community to enjoy!

Christmas Jumper Day

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 13th December in the Primary Phase and on Friday 20th December in the Secondary Phase**. By doing so a variety of charities will benefit from this as we are asking students who choose to participate in the event to make any donations they can. Only jumpers and/or hats are optional. All pupils **must wear the academy uniform for all other items of clothing**. Normal rules regarding shoes, jewellery and hair style/colour will apply. It is Christmas Jumper (and/or hat!) Day only.

The Academy closes for the Christmas break to all pupils of both Primary and Secondary Phases on **Friday 20th December at the earlier time of 12.15pm**. **Please note that all primary children MUST be picked up at this time. They will receive lunch before they leave.** In the Secondary Phase, there will be hot snacks and sandwiches available at breaktime in the high school, but no lunch will be served in the Secondary Phase on that day.

We have a Staff Development Day on Monday 6th January 2020. **Staff at the Academy will be welcoming back all students at the usual time on the morning of Tuesday 7th January 2020.**

Finally, I end by wishing you and all you love a peaceful and joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I look forward to welcoming your children back to the academy on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

Kind regards

Allison Moise-Dixon
Principal & CEO