

# ALEC REED ACADEMY

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Principal and CEO: Phil Cosby - BSc (Hons), MA



18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope you are keeping well and enjoying the long sunny evenings. This time of year brings forth a range of emotions as we move towards the end of the academic year and the examination season. Year 6 have already had their assessments, year 2, year 11 and year 13 are all in the process of completing theirs. It is a stressful, but rewarding time and I have been extremely pleased with the hard work and commitment that has been displayed by the pupils. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them all the best of luck in these examinations.

## Reducing Stress

The exams and assessments do create a lot of additional pressure on pupils and it is important that we work together to reduce their stress levels and help them manage their mental health. We are fortunate that we have our own full time counsellor in the academy but I share the following link [Kooth mental health support | Ealing Grid for Learning \(egfl.org.uk\)](https://www.egfl.org.uk) which you may find useful. Kooth is an NHS Commissioned digital mental health service that provides free, immediate, online counselling every day until 10pm with no waiting lists. It is available to young people aged 11-25 [Video about Kooth](#) and the website is available to access 24/7, with online counsellors available from 12-10pm weekdays and 6-10pm at the weekend.

## Jubilee Celebrations

You will all be aware that this year's jubilee celebrates the Queen's 70th year as monarch. In recognition there is a Bank Holiday on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. (During Half Term) In celebration of this event we are organising two 'street' parties. In the secondary phase this will take place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 3.30-5.00pm. In the Primary phase the celebration will be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you to those parents that have already confirmed they will be attending and especially those that have volunteered to support with the organisation of these events.

## Academy Fields

I have written to you on previous occasions regarding our plans for Academy Fields and I am pleased to report that with the support of Dina and Victor from Urban Edible Gardens, we successfully raised the funding to push ahead with this project. I look forward to keeping you informed of how this develops over the summer months.

## Visions for Northolt

I attended a meeting last week regarding enhancing the local area and especially the shops near the White Hart roundabout. You may be keen to ensure your view is heard as to how the local area could be improved and I encourage you to go to the website [Northolt \(visionsfornortholt.co.uk\)](http://visionsfornortholt.co.uk). I am arranging for the group to come into the academy to meet with some of our pupils to hear what they feel needs to be improved. There will also be an opportunity for young people, aged 6-18 years, to take part in creating their own way finding suggestions for Northolt's high streets. Winners will have their designs turned into temporary signage and displayed in Northolt by Autumn 2022. [Download the 6-11 years pack](#) [Download the 12-18 years pack](#)

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



## **Identity Theft**

It is important to remember that personal information in the wrong hands can be just as valuable as money and personal banking information can enable fraudsters to take out financial products and/or services in an innocent person's name, leaving them liable for any payments due. Sadly, social media enables anyone to pretend to be anyone they want to be online. Fraudsters are highly trained which means they can be very convincing. In recent weeks there have been cases where children in Ealing have been befriended by fraudsters on social media claiming they can help people to make 'easy money' or 'quick cash'. What may initially be perceived as a good opportunity quickly turn sour when they are persuaded to provide banking details or other personal information. I encourage you to talk to your children about online safety and to use privacy settings across social media platforms to manage your digital footprint and secure email and social media accounts. Each of which have facilities where you can block and report unwanted messages or untoward behaviour.

## **Term Dates**

The term dates for the next academic year are now confirmed and are on display on the academy website. [Alec Reed Academy Term Dates](#) I bring your attention to one change from the original draft dates which is the addition of a Professional Development Day on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. Pupils will not be expected in school on that day. It is really important that you take note of these dates and avoid taking any term time holidays. I remind you that I am not able to approve any request, except in the most extreme circumstances, and only then with supporting evidence. This is in response to direct guidance from the Government as they have a very clear expectation regarding attendance at school. I share with you a fact regarding the impact of attendance on student academic outcomes and employability.

The average student who is in school at least 95% of the time has a 74.5% chance of getting 5 or more GCSE's at Grade 5 or better.

And will earn on average 41% MORE money than.....

The average student who misses 20 days or more in a year has only a 26.7% chance of getting 5 or more GCSE's at Grade 5 or better.

## **Newsletter**

The end of term newsletter will be distributed just before the end of this half term and I hope you all enjoy reading about the range of activities that have been taking place over the last couple of months. We continue to do our best to keep you updated with all that is happening in the Academy and I encourage you to watch my weekly Vlog. However, I do encourage you to email [enquiries@alecreedacademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@alecreedacademy.co.uk) if you feel any areas of our work could be improved further.

With best wishes,

**Phil Cosby**  
**Principal & CEO**