

# ALEC REED ACADEMY

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



13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that we have already been back at school for a week and that in that time we have had such a range of weather. I don't think I have ever experienced such high temperatures in September in all my teaching career. I would like to start by congratulating all the pupils across the phases that completed any examination in the summer. We were pleased with the results, especially at A Level where we bucked the national trend and managed to improve on last year's results, despite the national drop to align with pre-pandemic levels. We wish all these pupils all the best at University or in their apprenticeships. I am aware that the scaffolding around our building created some concerns for parents as they believed it may have been linked to the national news about school closures due to reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC). **I confirm that this is not an issue for the academy** and that the scaffolding is to enable a new flat roof to be fitted. We hope that the scaffolding at the secondary entrance will be removed over the next couple of weeks and be moved down to the primary entrance. It is anticipated that all of the work will be completed by Christmas.

## Ofsted Report

We were pleased with our Ofsted report and the grading of being Good in all areas and Outstanding in the Nursery and reception but we do want to continue our drive to being Outstanding in all areas. To achieve this we need to ensure that **all** of our pupils regulate their behaviour at **all** times. As a result, we have continued to refine our behaviour expectations in the secondary phase and I ask that you continue to work closely with the school to ensure your child is the best they can be at all times. Our aspiration is not simply about better-behaved children, it is making sure all students succeed!

## Uniform

Students are expected to be in full school uniform every day they attend school. I have been very pleased with the standard of uniform over the first week and I thank you all for making such an effort to ensure your children have returned with the correct uniform for the start of term. I appreciate how challenging this can be. Where issues do remain year team staff will be making contact with you so that we can work together to resolve the problem as quickly as possible. If you would like greater clarity on uniform expectations please access our website which sets out our policies to help everyone understand what is expected so that there is no confusion or inconsistency [Alec Reed Academy - Uniform Shop](#).

Thanks to the parents that donated uniform over the summer, we now have a small supply of good quality items available to distribute. Please complete this short form if you would like to request a pre-loved item: <https://forms.office.com/r/VNK6n0eQnt>. If anyone else would like to donate good quality blazers, jumpers, trousers, skirts and shirts, please drop them off at reception. If for any reason your child does not have full uniform, please contact their SaFE Worker who will provide suitable replacements for them in the short term which they are expected to wear. **If you would like to discuss this further please contact your child's Head of Year or SaFE worker.**

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



## **ClassCharts**

ClassCharts is a quick and effective way of staying in touch with the academy. Positive reward points as well as behaviour points are logged on Class charts and **you should check this daily** so that you are aware of all the great things that your child is doing as well as to note if a behaviour point or detention has been issued. This will give you the opportunity to have a discussion with your child about their day and also support us in upholding high expectations. A parent guide can be accessed here [ClassCharts - Parent Guide](#).

I remind you that if your child is issued a detention, it will be logged automatically on ClassCharts with the detention set for the following day after school, providing you with 24 hours notice. It is your responsibility to check and to then make contact with your child's Head of Year or SaFE worker should they have an appointment after school. It is important that you fully support the Academy in ensuring students complete any detentions issued. If not your child's behaviour will not improve and behaviour concerns could escalate.

## **Mobile Phones**

I remind you that we have clear expectations regarding the use of mobile phones in school. The reason for this is that they can be a source of distraction and are often a tool for unkind or unwanted comments. They are not allowed to be used, seen or heard during school time or on the school site. The exception to this is if a member of staff has specifically given permission for a student to use their phone in the lesson. If a mobile phone is seen, it will be confiscated and if it is a first offence; it will be returned at the end of the day. Refusal to hand over a mobile phone will result in a 45 minute detention the following day as well as confiscation. If there is a second or subsequent offence, the phone will be kept in the school safe for 24 hours until a parent collects it. **In the event that a child or parent need to contact each other, this must be done by contacting the SAFE worker for your child.** There should be no need for a child to call home during the school day using a mobile phone.

## **Vaping**

I am sure that like me you will have concerns regarding the increased use of vapes amongst young people. I hope that the government changes current legislation to prevent children being able to easily obtain vapes and adds greater clarity regarding the fact that they contain nicotine, a very addictive drug, as well as many other additives that are not good for people to be ingesting. With this in mind we have fitted vape sensors in all toilets. **If children are caught vaping in school the vape will be confiscated and disposed off, parents will be contacted and an appropriate sanction set.** This could include a suspension.

## **Attendance**

In previous communications I have highlighted the need for high levels of attendance. I cannot stress enough how important it is that students are present in school **at least 95% of the school year.** Research demonstrates that the more often they are here the better they perform, even odd days of absence make a big difference. I also remind you that I cannot approve any request for term time holidays or visits to relatives, whatever the circumstances and as a result you will be fined should you child be absent for this reason.

## **Key Dates**

Our secondary Open Evening is on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September.** To enable us to fully prepare for the event the **Secondary Phase closes at 1.15pm on that day.** Children that are Free School Meals will be able to collect a sandwich or baguette before leaving school on that day. A small number of pupils will be supporting the event, should your child be one of these then you will receive a letter asking for your permission for them to return to school and act as a guide until 7.30pm

Over the course of the next few weeks of the Autumn Term, we also have **'Year Ahead' evenings** planned for each year group. You will be given more information prior to these events but the key dates are:

**Years 8 & 9 Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

**Years 10 & 11 Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

**Years 7 & 12 Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

During these evenings, there will be an opportunity to meet key staff for the year group as well as to hear how we can work together to support your child at ARA. You will also be able to ask questions and voice any concerns you have about the year ahead.

### **Tesco Stronger Starts**

I encourage you to support our application through the Tesco Stronger Starts programme. If successful we will get additional funding through Tesco to provide a safe, sensory experience to help improve the health and wellbeing for our students with special educational needs. To vote for the school you will need to make a purchase from one of the stores listed below between the first week of October 2023 until mid-January 2024. You will receive one token per transaction which you then place in the appropriate section of the voting chamber which is located near the exit.

#### Participating Stores:

Cowley Express UB8 2HL Northwood Hills Exp HA5 2PA South Hayes Express UB3 4NE Uxbridge High Street UB8 1ND Yeading Extra UB4 9SQ	Hillingdon Pield Rd UB8 3NJ South Ruislip Exp HA4 0QP Ruislip Manor Exp HA4 8NR Ickenham High Rd Exp UB10 8LB	Ruislip High St Exp HA4 8LR Hayes Uxbridge Rd Exp UB4 0RU Yiewsley UB7 7FP Hayes Station Rd Exp UB3 4BH West Drayton Exp UB7 7SF
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Do please continue to access my weekly VLOGs to get up to date information about what is happening in the academy. We will also be distributing some Newsletters during the course of this term.

Kind regards

Phil Cosby  
Principal & CEO