

ALEC REED ACADEMY



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Principal and CEO: Allison Moise-Dixon

29th October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly I wanted to welcome you all back to a new academic year. I apologise for not writing sooner but have been very busy with the improvements that we are making at the academy.

We had some excellent results this summer at all phases for individual students who demonstrated excellent progress from their starting points. The results were as follows:

KS1 Summary			
	Reading	Writing	Maths
EXS	73%	70%	72%
GDS	25%	18%	21%

KS2 Summary			
	Reading	Writing	Maths
EXS	63%	71%	77%
GDS	22%	14%	27%

KS4 GCSE Summary	
4+ English and maths	54%
5+ English and maths	31%
P8 Score	-0.2 (Average)

We were particularly pleased with the number of students who achieved grades 8 and 9 at GCSE as well as those students in primary who achieved GDS (Greater Depth). Nevertheless, it would be fair to say that we were disappointed by some of the dips in results. We are clear about why these took place and the complexities that existed around particular cohorts. However, because we want the best for our children, we are focused and confident that these will not be repeated and have already addressed and put in place, as part of our academy improvement plans, the key actions that will ensure the dips in progress do not happen again.

Both primary and secondary phases have been deep into their preparations for the coming year and addressing results and improvements as we move forward. We have had open evenings, open days, tours of the academy and a range of trips including the year 7 camping trip (which was fantastic for students) to a primary visit to the farm. In the high school, the new year 7s have been working with an artist in residence and in primary students have really embraced black history month with a focus on their favourite writers. We have also been busy fundraising as an academy community for a range of charitable causes including Macmillan and Wear Red Day (show racism the red card). Last half term, the academy has raised almost £1,000 in our contributions to try to make a difference.

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



We have had an excellent start to the new academic year in terms of being very explicit in our high expectations of students from day one. We know how talented and capable our young people are and we want them to not only be ready to experience academic success in school but to be ready to be successful in their lives beyond the academy. To this end, we want to continue to embed our values of respect, honesty and kindness, whilst also supporting our students to be resilient, considerate and focused on their learning. I am delighted with the way in which most students have started positively this year and look forward to this being continued.

As we start a new academic year, we keep our focus on the main things: keeping students safe and ensuring that students are focused on our main priority – learning and progressing. I would be grateful if you could continue to remind your child of the following so that this focus can be maintained throughout the year:

Attendance and punctuality

As you know, this is an essential key to success. If the children are not in school, they cannot achieve to the best of their ability. Attendance so far this term has been very good and we would like this to continue. However, the other area that needs focused attention is punctuality. This will be a key drive this academic year as there are still too many students who seem to think that it is ok to arrive late to the academy. As most lateness is within 5 minutes of the academy start time, this is unacceptable. I would ask that parents / carers fully support the academy in ensuring that their child is present and on time on a daily basis.

Leave of absence – My thanks to the vast majority of parents / carers who respect the dates of each term and only ask for leave in exceptional circumstances. However, I still have a small number of requests that whilst honest, leave me no choice but to unauthorise and where required, authorise a penalty notice to be issued, as these are holidays. A penalty notice is a fixed amount of £120 per child. Please be aware that I would only be able to authorise a leave of absence in **exceptional circumstances**. The forms for requesting this can be collected by your child from their SAFE worker.

Uniform and equipment

We have been very pleased in general with how smart our students look when they are in the academy as well as on their way to and from the academy. We expect all of our students to fully adhere to the uniform expectations. A reminder that the uniform shop section of the website provides the details of both primary and secondary uniform expectations. Also, you are of course welcome to come and view and buy uniform at the uniform shop in the Secondary phase of the academy on Wednesdays. Please note that the uniform shop is closed for lunch from 12 – 1.15pm. However, the shop opens from 9am and closes at 3.45pm.

Methods of communication

There are times when you may need to speak to a member of staff at the academy about your child to convey any worries, concerns or simply to keep us in the loop at an important time for your child. I just wanted to take the opportunity to remind parents / carers of how to communicate and escalate issues raised.

Primary

Levels of Contact / Severity	Example	Key Person
First time issue raised	Attendance, punctuality, homework, medical issue, behaviour concerns	Class worker / class teacher / Key stage SAFE Worker
Second time issue raised	As above	Key stage Assistant Principal
Third time issue raised	As above	Deputy Headteacher, Primary
Fourth time issue raised	As above	Headteacher, Primary
All safeguarding concerns		Headteacher, Primary

Secondary

Levels of Contact / Severity	Example	Key Person
First time issue raised	Attendance, punctuality, homework, medical issue, behaviour concerns	SAFE Worker
Second time issue raised	As above	Head of Year
Third time issue raised	As above	Key Stage Assistant Principal
Fourth time issue raised	As above	Associate Principals
All safeguarding concerns		Associate Principal, Safeguarding lead
Any other issues that have not been resolved via the routes suggested at either primary or secondary phase		Principal / CEO

Annual School Photographs

On **Monday 4th November** an external company will be in the academy to take official school photos of students in both the Primary and Secondary Phases. Once the photos have been taken you will receive further information regarding how they can be purchased.

Behaviour for Learning

I attach our updated behaviour policy. This is also available on the website. Please do read through this and ensure that your child is fully aware of the implications. At the academy, we are very proud of our students who on a daily basis, display positive, focused behaviour for learning and as a result, are making rapid progress. We fully understand our role in motivating, encouraging and guiding our children and young people to be their best selves. However, we also need your support and the commitment of your child to always work with us to achieve this mutual goal. We will continue to have high expectations of our children and young people and expect them to meet them. We know that with your support, they will.

Finally, please note that students were all given at the beginning of the academic year a sticker showing the revised term dates for this year. Please check with your child that they have received this and that you are aware also of these revised dates. **The last day of term is Friday 20th December 2019.**

Warm regards and best wishes

Allison Moise-Dixon
Principal and CEO