



21<sup>st</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that everyone has had a good start to 2019! I have been impressed with standards following my previous newsletter and very impressed with the work that so many of our children are completing.

I have been particularly pleased to see our Year 7 students begin to study Shakespeare's "A mid-summer's night's dream" and so many of our Year 10 students really effectively engage with learning about Whitechapel in History.

We recently received our comparative data for English mastery in Year 7 and 8 and I was very pleased to see the quality of students' responses as well as the standards and high proportions of students at Arena on track to achieve the highest grades at GCSE in a few years time.

This newsletter contains information that is really important for your child so please read it carefully.

#### Knife Arches

In previous years we have operated a knife arch with the local police. We will be doing this again shortly. I have attached the letter which I previously sent out which explains the reasoning. This is not something to be worried about, however, it is important that we can be confident that the academy is weapon free.

#### GCSE Pod

I would like to thank Mrs Polyviou (Head of Humanities) for organising and launching GCSE pod with year 9 and 10. This will be a very important tool to support student revision and understanding over the next few years. Please encourage your children to use this.

#### Trips and Visits

Following extensive feedback through parent's forums and discussions we have increased the numbers of trips and visits from the academy. It has been lovely to hear about the science visits, art visits and I know many students are looking forward to the Paris trip later in the year.

#### Reading

As stated in my previous newsletter we have made some changes to the school day. Students have been reading more during tutor time and this has led to a significantly calmer start to the academy day. Well done to all.

#### Bullying and mobile phones

Unfortunately we have had some really unpleasant bullying cases over the last couple of weeks. I will be writing to parents next week and informing students of a further academy wide action to tackle this unpleasant and totally unacceptable situation. The academy takes these matters very seriously, please inform your child's head of year or tutor if you hear of any nasty behaviour. We will not tolerate this.

In addition on a couple of occasions, mobile phones have gone missing. I am currently updating our mobile phone policy, alongside Mr Arthur, Assistant Principal. Please can I remind you that children should give their mobile phones in during PE and phones should not otherwise be visible within the academy.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Raymond  
Principal

Principal - Thomas Raymond

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