



20th July 2022

To our community,

Today marks the end of another academic year, and I must admit, this has been a challenging one for all members of our community, but most importantly, our young people. It seems an age since we sent update letters about Covid-19 but we must remember that although this was our first full academic year since 2018, we are still feeling the impact of this pandemic. It was only February 2022, when the academy suffered 29 staff off with the virus, only a short twenty school weeks ago and so this disruption must not be underestimated. The resilience displayed by our young people has been astounding and the encouragement provided by families has been gratefully received. For your support, we will be always grateful.

Despite all of the challenges of this year, we have worked really hard to bring this academy back to life. And this has been a success. We have employed more teachers in drama and the Arts than ever before – in a push to raise the profile of these incredibly important subjects. We have had so many extra curriculum opportunities opened to our academy. This has included, external speakers visit the school, ‘fish and chip supper’ evenings, three face-to-face parental evenings, a meet the SENCO evening, two productions and a sports awards evening. Our students are so very talented, and we are proud of their achievements this year. In addition to this, in our endeavour to offer at least one school trip to each child at the academy, I can confirm that this year, after restrictions lifted in January, we have completed sixteen external trips. Whilst we are pleased with this, next year, we will push harder. More parental events, more performances, more sports wins, and more trips.

We are proud of our staff at the academy, and we have some brilliant staff. I want to take this opportunity to inform parents of our staff changes for next year. Teachers have very few points of exit to leave within a school year, which is why is sometimes feels busy at the end of summer, but we are really pleased with our recruitment drive. We have appointed, some fantastic, experienced, skilled new staff members, such as a new Curriculum Leader for Science, subject lead in IT, subject lead in Business and new College leader for Pankhurst, to name a few. We look forward to welcoming all new staff in September and we wish all our departing staff a big farewell. You will be missed.

Finally, I wanted to provide you all with the start of term arrangements. The Academy reopens to Y7 and Y12 only, on Tuesday 6th September 2022 (9.30am) and to **all students** on Wednesday 7th September 2022 (8.25am). More information will follow during the summer.

We wish you all the very best of summer breaks and we really look forward to welcoming you all back, and our new Y7 and Y12 starters, in September 2022.

Kind regards

Miss Crehan
Principal