

KFA/NBU/CS/School ltr  
1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents /Carers

Thank you to Parents/Carers and Students for your continued support and engagement with us. With only 3 weeks to go before the Easter break, we have a lot of learning and extra-curricular activities to pack in. I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of a few things.

#### Start Time

Lessons start at 8.30am and all students need to be in classrooms by this time. We lock the gates at 8.25am and anyone arriving after this time will be placed in a lunchtime detention unless you provide a valid reason for lateness. Some of our learners are cutting it very fine at the minute, may I ask that you remind them that they should be through the gates well before 8.25am and seated ready to learn by 8.30am.

#### Uniform

The vast majority of our students look very smart when entering the Academy but there is too much conflict created around leggings and skirt length. Our uniform policy states black trousers and not leggings. Should you need support with providing trousers please ask your child's year team. We are considering removing skirts from the policy for next year as this will eliminate the continued conflict where skirts are far too short for school. Skirts should be no shorter than 2.5cm above the knee. If your child chooses to wear a skirt, can I ask that you check the length and talk to your child about keeping it at an appropriate length throughout the day.

#### The Big Day Out

We are all very much looking forward to the big day out on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and just a reminder that final payments are now due for your child's chosen visit.

#### Attendance

Since the pandemic we have not been able to secure the same excellent levels of attendance that we had before. Too many learners are missing too many days and opting out of learning opportunities. Currently learners across the country are citing poor mental health as a reason for not attending school. There is a strong link between good attendance and good mental wellbeing, and this is because of the social interaction opportunities a school can provide. Spending time with friends face to face rather than through screens can improve mental wellbeing. Keeping on top of learning and not creating knowledge gaps will have a positive impact on mental wellbeing too. The research says that those learners with excellent levels of attendance will generally be more motivated and happier. We have an extensive network of support within the Academy for our learners who struggle but they need to be in school to access it. Please work with us to promote excellent levels of attendance. There are only 15 school days to the next school holiday.

#### Changes to the Academy Day

I have asked our students to provide feedback about making changes to the Academy Day. It will not impact on start or end time, but it will enable us to make the lunchtime longer to provide more extra-curricular opportunities. We will be able to provide a range of clubs such as drama, music, sports, languages, science, DT etc. This will in turn provide more opportunities for socialising with friends and peers. It is my hope that this will make school more attractive to our students and improve attendance and lead to better outcomes. If you have an opinion to share on this, please let me know.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support, my first 7 weeks of headship has been an enjoyable challenge! If you have any feedback to share or suggestions for the future, we would welcome them as we start to plan for the next academic year. We are working to improve our communication on social media so follow us on X @HoltbyWinifred

Yours Sincerely



**Mrs K Farmer**  
Headteacher