

29 March 2019

Bulletin Letter

This week I am writing a letter in lieu of our bulletin. The bulletin will be produced and distributed early next week, but due to some technical issues we are unable to produce it today. Incredibly we are almost at the end of term. Just one more week to go until the Easter holiday. But we continue to be amazingly busy and there are lots of events planned for next week.

Today a number of students in year 10 have been participating in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. This offers our students training in debating skills and then pitches them together in a competition as they demonstrate their speaking skills. The winners will then go on to further competitions. Tonight some of our Year 9 students are competing in the Rudolph Walker Foundation Drama Competition at Epping College. Some months ago the actor Rudolph Walker, otherwise known as Patrick Trueman in EastEnders, visited us and invited us to participate in his Drama Competition. Tonight is the culmination of the students' and Mr McHugh's efforts as they compete for the prize. Watch out on various twitter feeds for the results tonight.

Next week the biggest item is the Drop Down Day on Wednesday. There are different events for each year. All the students have been briefed in assemblies this week and should know what they are doing. Year 7 are leaving the site to give back to the community. They will be walking to local park, but must be in full academy uniform with the exception that they can wear walking boots or trainers. Years 8 and 9 are completing one of a range of creative or sporting activities. Year 10 are having a workshop on revision skills and some option subjects (French and Media) are having some additional input. While Year 11 are focusing on their English and maths in the run up to their GCSEs.

On a less positive note we have had a number of fire alarms this week. I have written to parents and carers separately about this. From next week we will extend the academy day by 10 minutes if the fire alarm is set off deliberately to ensure that we don't miss our learning time. Please see my letter. I also want to address the use of social media. There is so much positive about the latest technology and I am pleased to say that there are many really positive messages about Mark Hall on Twitter, Facebook and other platforms. This is encouraging for students, parents, carers and staff. Occasionally we do see negative posts about the academy. This has the potential to be very damaging to us all. As students, parents, carers and staff we want our academy to grow and develop in a really positive way. Negative messages, particularly if they are untrue have the potential to limit our potential. New students and possibly new staff might be put off from joining us and that damages us. I ask that if you have a concern that you address it directly to the academy rather than airing it on social media. We all need to work together to improve and develop our academy to the benefit of all our students.

Please remember that next week we finish on Friday at 1230pm. Have a great weekend.

With best wishes, Jonathan Fuller

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