

5 September 2011

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are all incredibly excited about the new academic year. I cannot describe how proud I am to be able to welcome you back for the start of a new term as officially ***the most improved Academy in Bristol!***

85% of our students achieved 5 GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*-C, and **40%** including both English and Maths. We have broken the Government target for the first time, and improved by 11% on last year. There are very many individual students and staff whose efforts deserve a mention; equally there are very many parents who, by working in partnership with us, have played a vital role in ensuring that their children achieved their personal best.

As you would expect, we are all firmly focused on this year and ensuring that we once again celebrate our "best ever" results. Our new Year 11 are already well on their way. Many of the top Maths set took their GCSE exam a year early and achieved A*-C grades; a tremendous achievement and one that promises well for the future.

I would like to offer a very warm welcome to our new students, especially those joining us in Year 7. This year we welcome 138 students into what is now our largest year group and very nearly full. We will do everything that we can to ensure that the start to their Secondary education is as successful as possible.

We also welcome nine new members of staff in Maths, English, Science, PE, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, Art and Drama! I would like to wish them all well as they start their careers within Oasis.

The theme for this academic year is **PERFORMANCE**. We are determined to become one of the very best schools in Bristol, and we expect every student and every adult in our Academy to perform to their full potential each and every day. This demands that we set the highest standards, but also that we provide the very best support.

As parents, you play a vital role in ensuring that our Academy continues to grow and develop. We need your support to ensure that each and every day your son/daughter enjoys their learning, and is able to achieve their very best.

Routines are critical to ensuring consistent performance and over the first few weeks we will be working very hard to establish good habits. As parents, we ask you to help us by ensuring that your son or daughter arrives each day on time, by 9.00am at the latest, and that they are ready and equipped to learn.

UNIFORM

We are very proud of our Academy uniform. It is a really important part of preparing our young people for the world of work, and looking smart and having a sense of belonging instils confidence and builds self-esteem. Critically, we believe that we can be even smarter.

Oasis Academy John Williams

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This year we intend to be very firm; please ensure that your son/daughter understands the following uniform guidance:

1. All students must wear their blazer at all times
2. All ties must be done up so that the top button cannot be seen
3. All shirts must be tucked in
4. School shoes must be leather or equivalent with black soles (no trainers, no plimsolls)
5. Academy PE kit must be worn for every PE lesson

STUDENT PLANNERS

Every student has been issued with a personal Planner. We expect every student to bring their planner to the Academy every day in order to help them to develop independence and organise their learning effectively. The Planner contains a vast amount of information; please familiarise yourself with it and check it each day. This year we want to reduce the amount of information that we distribute on paper, and will be placing letters and general notices on the website in future. We will be using the Planner to communicate with you at home: for example, we will notify you of any information posted on the website by placing a sticker in your son/daughter's Planner. Of course if you do not have internet access, or would simply prefer to receive paper communication, please let your son/daughter's Learning Mentor know, and we will happily accommodate.

EQUIPMENT

Please help us by ensuring that your son/daughter comes to the Academy properly equipped each day. All students should bring a school-bag containing all of the basics that they need for learning: pens, pencils, a calculator, etc. They should also remember to bring specialist equipment such as PE Kit, and cooking ingredients whenever necessary.

MOBILE PHONES

We are operating a 'no view' policy with regard to all electronic equipment, including mobile phones. Please remind your son/daughter that if they have any electronic equipment out in lessons, or even switched on so that it disturbs learning, it will be confiscated. We recommend that students leave any valuables, including mobile phones, in their lockers.

We aspire to nothing less than the very best for each and every one of our students. I hope to meet many of you over the next few months and am very much looking forward to working with you again this year to ensure that we provide your son or daughter with the excellent education that they deserve.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Rebecca Clark
Principal



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