



2 December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

PD Day – next Tuesday, Y12 Changemakers, Canopy installations, National Cup result – Year 9 football, Green Christmas tips, Holiday Activity Fund vouchers, National Online Safety accreditation 2023, Vapes, Headmaster tie nominations

Welcome to my end of week update letter. We are at the end of another busy week at the Academy. With just two weeks to go until the Christmas break, I have met with my pastoral teams to firm up our end of term arrangements and rewards activities. In addition, it is our next PD Day next Tuesday with a multitude of external speakers coming in to work with our students. It is fair to say that we are not taking our foot off the pedal just yet.

More below:

PD Day – next Tuesday

We are looking forward to our second Personal Development ‘drop down’ Day on Tuesday. In line with this terms Personal Development Curriculum it has a ‘Living in the Wider World’ focus.

Students in Year 7 will experience lessons based on real life scenarios, Year 8 have a debate competition and a card making brief from art. Year 9 and 10 students all have the opportunity to listen to visiting speakers about future careers ranging from Criminal Justice to Construction to Working with Animals. Year 9 and Year 11 will also get taster sessions in possible GCSE and A-Level options.

Year 12 students are visiting Loughborough University and Year 13 are looking ahead at their next steps after they leave the Academy in the summer. Follow our Instagram page to see photographs of the day!

Y12 Changemakers

A lovely group of our Year 12 students have been working on a social action project to raise awareness for women who experience a deprivation of sanitary products as well as other hygiene essentials. You will have received a separate email from the Academy in relation to this earlier today. Please take a read and donate if you feel able to support. Thank you.

Canopy installations

This week, I had the pleasure of meeting with the company who are due to install our three new external canopies early in the New Year. The intention is to install one over The Pit Stop caterpod to allow for bistro style seating which we have ordered with a grant we have received, a second canopy will stretch twenty metres along from the science department to the performing arts faculty with picnic benching underneath and the third canopy will span twenty metres from over the Nom Nom caterpod along the back of the building to the library back door, again with seating underneath. It is hoped that this huge external set of works will be completed around the end of January and will continue to shelter youngsters in wet weather as well in the summer when it is much warmer.

National Cup result – Year 9 football

Yesterday, the Year 9 football team played a home fixture v Boston Grammar School in the National Cup. We lost 2-1 unfortunately, but we proved to be the better team for the majority of the game. We went 1-0 down early in the first half, dominated the game and equalised in the second half. We were pushing for a winner and they scored in the dying embers of the game. It just didn't go our way but the boys performed wonderfully well.

Green Christmas tips

In my promised weekly update of green Christmas tips, wear what you have in your wardrobe already. Avoid fast fashion by reusing Christmas outfits, or you could buy second hand.

This week, I have received some enquiries as to why I am counting down to Christmas in such a way. Quite simply, by raising awareness in this way, our Green Team can tick off a bit more of the next level of their Eco-Schools Award evidence.

Holiday Activity Fund vouchers

In the run up to the festive period, we have been able to order more vouchers than expected which is why more have been offered. There have been some queries as to if this is a scam. I can assure you it is not. Recipients of vouchers do not have to use them but they are available nevertheless.



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Admissions Policy 2024/2025

This policy has now been ratified by the Board of Trustees and is on our website under the policies tab. Should this affect you in a siblings context, please feel free to have a look at your leisure.

National Online Safety accreditation 2023

Our National Online Safety reaccreditation has been validated this week and we will now keep our shield and status as a national online safety school. This is excellent news and goes some way to show how we take online safety seriously in this world where so many pitfalls can befall young people if they do not use devices wisely. We will continue to offer workshops and training to our student body and to parents as they become available and pertinent.

Vapes

We are seeing a rise in the number of youngsters thinking it is acceptable to bring these into the Academy. Coupled with this, we are seeing some groups of youngsters who consider it cool to take photos of themselves doing this and posting it on their social media accounts. We will not tolerate this under any circumstances and will take strong action to discourage this from continuing.

Headmaster tie nominations

At this time of the term, I ask for nominations for colours ties from staff and parents. For those parents who have not experienced this before with us, we accept nominations for students to receive a special colours tie three times a year for music, drama, sport, charity fundraising or leadership. This can be for work within the Academy or outside in the community. Please send any nominations to Mrs Goffe via email at agoffe@srpa.co.uk before the close of school on Friday 9 December please. Ties are always given out in Full School Assembly before the end of term.

Yesterday, I opened my advent calendar to begin the month of December. Advent comes from the Latin Adventus which means “coming” and, as we know, begins the period of preparation for the celebration of Jesus Christ at Christmas. In the week when recent census data has been published showing that religion is playing less and less of a role in the nation’s lives, this period in the year is an important one for reflection and thoughtfulness about how we care for one another and look after our own. I hope that our activities between now and the festive break give us all a chance to consider how we treat others and wish to be treated. In the words



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of the author, Frank Sonnenberg, "It's easier to treat people properly than to repair broken relationships."

Have a lovely weekend when it comes.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Headmaster



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"This is a calm, happy and caring school."