

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Building momentum

It does not seem possible but we have now completed the last full week of the Spring Term with just four days left before a much-deserved break for the school community. This week has been action packed with interhouse competitions in full swing, drama and dance pupils completing final performances for their public exams, and 56 year 10 pupils successfully completing their Duke of Edinburgh expedition training over the weekend. We have welcomed lots of visitors into the Academy this week and it has been really enjoyable to share with them the positive journey the school is on as we strive for excellence in all that we do. On Tuesday we welcomed existing parents on a tour as part of our monthly open mornings and on Thursday we had 20 parents and pupils in year 6 who will be joining us in September. They commented on the positive attitudes to learning in classrooms and the sense of community and belonging that is a key part of the ethos we look to create. On Wednesday we welcomed two headteachers from other schools within Anglian Learning along with the Deputy CEO to spend a day reflecting on our school improvement journey. It was fantastic to engage with them in this process and to have similar feedback in terms of the positive momentum we feel we are gathering in developing a successful culture for all pupils and staff. These opportunities to engage with professionals from other schools, and learn from their knowledge and experience, is one of the many benefits of being part of our Trust.

Further updates this week are as follows:

1. Parent survey – As mentioned last week, please click on the link to complete a quick survey on your views on our Friday communications: [CLICK HERE](#)
2. Closure of School Lane from 19<sup>th</sup> March – Apologies for the final reminder last week but I was then informed subsequently that this work has been postponed. We are waiting on an updated timeframe for the completion of this work and I will update you as soon as I have further information.
3. Parking on Bridgend (Opposite school lane) - Please can we remind parents to park and drop of pupils safely and in careful consideration of our neighbours. Parking on Bridgend is something we would not encourage and would ask you to consider suitable alternatives at drop off/pick up time.
4. End of term/start of term – A reminder that this term ends on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at the normal time of 15:15. We re-open for all pupils on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April and look forward to welcoming everyone back after the Easter break.
5. Pupil achievements – Roxanne A, Year 9 has completed the Six Maths Masterclasses, a fantastic achievement. Roxanne said she especially liked the lesson on the 4<sup>th</sup> dimension where they made tesseract out of straws and pipe cleaners! Well done Roxanne. Matthew H, year 8 and his football team, Standon and Puckeridge Hares U13 boys, won the Cambridge and District Colts Challenge Cup over the weekend. They won 5-1 and Matthew scored one of the goals for his team. A fabulous achievement which we are proud to celebrate. Secondly, I was privileged to read this week Ryan W, year 7, history work about the missing Roanoke expedition. Ryan completed a summary of what went on, evaluated the different explanations, and arrived at his own conclusion. It is very impressive work and a real illustration of the 4Is of imagination, independence, inquisitiveness and insightfulness that underpin our curriculum in every subject.
6. Charity fundraising - I also wanted to inform parents and carers this week of the funds we have raised for charities of our choice, in recent times. The Academy has raised £308.66 to The Lullaby Trust who collect to raise awareness of SIDS as part of our Christmas Jumper Day. Furthermore, our Sixth Form Charities Week, brought back this year for the first time since the pandemic, raised £219 for Mind, Guide Dogs and Macmillan Cancer Support.

A slightly shorter set of updates this week as this is the last newsletter of this term and we always try to keep these slightly briefer. The final thought this week is that walking around the school this week there has been a really

purposeful atmosphere in the air as pupils work hard in lessons and what seems like an ever increasing number of trips and visits giving pupils memories and opportunities that are a vital part of school life. Many of our visitors this week have commented on the positive direction they can see the school is moving in and we look forward to continuing to build this momentum next term.

The quote that really sums up this feeling is the American author and leadership coach when he says, “success is like a snowball, it takes momentum to build and the more you roll in the right direction, the bigger it gets”.

Have a great weekend,

Duncan Roberts  
Principal