



25th October 2019

DG/dm

Dear Parent/Guardian

Half Term Break and Key Messages

It certainly has been a busy half term with a great many achievements and changes in a short period of time. I have summarised just a few below:

- We held a number of events for our new Year 7 students to ensure they are settling in well.
- Some of our Year 8 students have taken part in a 'Medical Maverick' session.
- A selection of our Year 9 students have taken part in the Franklin Scholar peer tutoring and coaching sessions.
- We held a number of career events and visits for our Year 10 students, including a visit to Hulme Grammar.
- We held Maximise Evening this term for our Year 11 students as they embark upon their final year of school and their GCSE's.
- We have raised expectations of all, particularly in relation to uniform, the way students move around the school, classwork and homework and continue to have the highest expectations of students to achieve excellence in a supportive and nurturing environment.

Home Learning

Mrs Blackwood, Deputy Principal, recently wrote to you to explain our whole Academy focus on promoting a sense of independence in our students and the work they do both in school and at home. We have invested in new student planners to encourage our students to reflect on their learning at the end of each lesson. Furthermore, we are continuously encouraging our students to read more by visiting the new school library and by choosing some of the reading list suggestions for each subject listed in their planner.

After October half term, we will be launching a new Home Learning strategy. This strategy will focus on knowledge recall to improve student learning and prepare them for the challenge of knowledge rich courses and final examinations.

We will also be launching a Home Learning page on our Academy website. This will allow parents to understand what their child should be learning at home and how best to support them in this. There will also be access to key subject resources, which parents can access to quiz their children and support with their homework.

Research suggests that the more we recall and rehearse, the more likely we are to remember key information. Therefore, repeated quizzing at home will support students to access their lessons and examinations successfully.

Students need to work at home every day. If this is not a specific task set by class teachers, then it should be self-quizzing using subject resources and knowledge organisers. In each year group students need to spend the following time each evening on homework:

Year	Minimum time spent on homework per day
Year 7	20 minutes
Year 8	30 minutes
Year 9	40 minutes
Year 10	50 minutes
Year 11	60 minutes

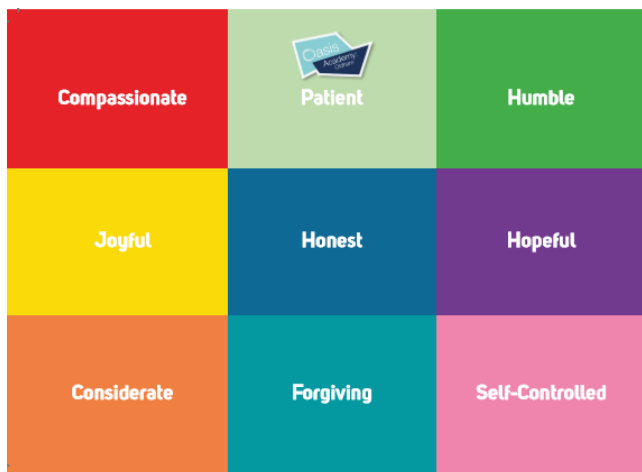
Thank you for your support with this new initiative in school. We are working to improve our communication with parents regarding home learning as we believe that parental support with self-quizzing and testing at home will lead to gains in the classroom and the outcomes of our students.

Oasis 9 Habits Postcards

Last academic year we asked you to join us in our Oasis 9 habits postcard challenge. Thank you for your participation, we have some great displays around the academy reflecting the range of ways in which your son/daughter demonstrated a particular habit at home or in the wider community.

This year we have a new range of postcard for 2019-2020 and you will notice we have change the front of the postcard to feature all nine of our Oasis habits. These will be distributed after half term and we will invite you issue postcards to either:-

- **Your child** - Well done for demonstrating the habit of **self-control** when completing a piece of difficult homework this week, we are proud of you
- **Your child's tutor** – Thank you for being so **'joyful'** and making my child's start to the day so welcoming
- **Subject teacher** – We really appreciate your **compassion** in a week that has proved difficult for our daughter for personal family reasons
- **Head of Year** – It was **considerate** of you to meet with us recently to discuss how we can work together to support our son improve his attendance
- **Pastoral Leader** – You were so **humble** in your support of our child, you couldn't have done any more to help them settle in to year 7
- **Subject teacher** – Your **honest** approach to discussing our child's progress and the support in place has been much appreciated



To:

I would like to recognise you for showing the Oasis habit of

You did this by

.....

.....

Thank you

Parent/Teacher: Student:

Year: Tutor:

Once you have completed a postcard please return the postcard to the academy with your child and they can deliver to the relevant member of staff or call in and leave at our reception. Staff will compete for the highest returns from you!

Please expect to receive some in return too! All staff and students will participate in this year's **Nine Habit Postcard Challenge** with students sending postcards to:

- Peers
- Teachers
- Family members

When your first batch of 5 postcards are used – please place a note in your child's planner for a second batch of 5!

It is important to be kind and to recognise someone else's effort and support via our Oasis 9 Habits – please join us in recognising the small but significant things others do.

Please look out for edition 5 of the LORIC which will be send out to you by the end of this week.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a restful half term holiday and thank you for your support over the last term. The academy will re-open on Monday 4th November at the normal time of 08:25, with breakfast clubs from 07:45.

Yours sincerely



Miss D Gobbi
Principal

Principal - Miss D Gobbi

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HAVE A
HAPPY
BONFIRE NIGHT
stay safe, have fun

GO TO AN ORGANISED FIREWORKS DISPLAY

TREACLE

To find your local display visit the website
safe4autumn.com



Please help us to keep your community safe by:

Only attending
organised
bonfire/
firework events

Reporting
unofficial
bonfires on
public land

Calling us to
safely dispose
of unwanted
fireworks

Follow the
firework
safety code

FIREWORK SAFETY CODE

- Buy fireworks marked CE
- Keep fireworks in a closed metal box and use them one at a time
- Read and follow the instructions on each firework
- Light the fireworks at arm's length with a taper and stand well back
- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks
- Never return to a firework once it has been lit
- Never put fireworks in pockets or throw them
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves
- Keep a bucket of water nearby at all times
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix and may lead to injury
- Keep pets indoors

For safe disposal of illegal or unwanted fireworks call
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service on

Freephone 0800 555 815

To report unofficial bonfires on public land contact your Local Authority.
For information about Halloween and bonfire safety visit

www.safe4autumn.com