



24 October 2018

Dear Parent

Update from Ms Egwuma – October 2018

As we approach the end of the first half term of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on some important information and key dates for your diary. Students have returned to school in a very positive manner and the whole school community has made me feel very welcome in my role as Head of School.

Parent Events

We have started this year with a number of parent events. Our Year 7 transition celebration evening saw Year 7 students perform a set of drama sketches and singing performances to a packed theatre. This was a very special event and a wonderful opportunity for parents to see their children in their new school. In addition, we have held a parents' information event for Year 7 on reporting and memory recall. This will undoubtedly support students well for all assessments and exams. As Head of School, I strongly believe that attendance to these events is of integral to students being successful learners. These events have been very well attended and I look forward to meeting parents at future events.

Attendance and Punctuality

We have made some changes to our processes around attendance and punctuality as detailed in the letter from Ms Watson last week. In the first 6 weeks of term, less than 0.5% of the school population have been late to school each day, and on some days none at all. This is a standard we wish to maintain and your support is very much appreciated. In terms of attendance, whilst this is better than this time last year, it can be better and 96% attendance is seen as good. Therefore, as we enter the autumn and winter months, please support us in further raising attendance by encouraging your children to come to school every day and, wherever possible, cope with having colds and feeling a bit 'under the weather'. A day missed does affect learning and progress and we want to support every child every day in maximising progress.

Extra-curricular activities

We offer an extensive range of enrichment activities both at lunchtime and after school. Many of these events support our Pledge System as students make wider contributions to academy life. Attendance at these activities has been good, however, I would love to see more and more students staying in school at the end of the day to take and also taking part at lunchtime. We are also working hard to introduce some new clubs and will keep you updated via the website.

Uniform

Since I have started, I have been particularly impressed with how smart and presentable students are in terms of their school uniform. Students across the school are clearly taking pride in their appearance, their work and their school. As we approach the colder months can I remind you of the expectations of school coats. Students may wear plain coats or jackets. Hoodies, tracksuit tops or sports coats with logos are not allowed. Fashion coats such as leather/denim jackets or body-warmers are also not permitted. In terms of jewellery, students may wear one stud in each ear. Any other piercings, including nose piercings are not permitted. Students are also not allowed to wear rings, bracelets or necklaces in school.



Homework

I firmly believe that homework supports learning and progress and forms an important part of the curriculum. Students should be completing the work set to a high standard, reading around the subjects they are studying and also creating revision resources. Show My Homework is an essential resource where parents can view the homework being set and fully engage with students learning. Please contact your child's tutor if you are not sure of their log in details.

Year 11

Year 11 students have made a great start to their final GCSE year. In the last few weeks, I have spoken to a number of students regarding their learning and progress and how we can further support them in their studies. The students have talked extremely positively about their lessons and support provided by teachers. Last week we issued all Year 11 students with the mock exam timetable. The French and Spanish speaking mocks commence the week beginning 12 November 2018 and all other mock exams will begin on the 19 November 2018 for two weeks. Practical subjects' mock exams will be the week beginning 26 November 2018. Please support students in their revision by encouraging them to take it seriously and also use the materials that their teachers are providing. Ultimately, we want students to have good study/revision habits and the sooner they start the better.

For information, our Sixth Form Open Evening is on Thursday 15 November 2018 between 6:30pm and 8:30pm. I would encourage all parents of both Year 11 and Year 10 students to attend with their children to view our amazing Sixth Form offer and fully understand the requirements and pathways available at Post-16.

Terms dates 2019-2020

We will be publishing the school term dates for 2019-2020 in the upcoming weeks. For your information, students will start back on the 3 September 2019 and we will be moving to a two week break in October half term following the Nottingham City term pattern.

Dining Room

When we return from half term break we will be launching our new breakfast and winter lunch menu. Can I also encourage you to check your eligibility for Free School Meals via our website in the 'Parents' section.

Dates for your diary

Listed below are some key dates for your diary for the weeks until the end of the autumn term. Please check them carefully as they include vital parent events and early closure for Tutor Review meetings.

- 29 October to 2 November - Half term week
- 6 November - Year 13 Parents' Evening
- 12 November - School finishes at 2:05pm for Year 10 Tutor Reviews
- 14 November - Reading Intervention parent meeting 6pm in the Theatre
- 15 November - Sixth Form Open Evening 6:30pm-8:30pm
- 19 November - Year 11 mock exams begin for 2 weeks

Further details of diary dates for the entire academic year are available on our website. Please do use our website www.theacademycarlton.org.uk and follow our Twitter feed, @Carlton_Academy for further news and updates.

Finally, thank you to the 70% of parents who have signed up and use the Gateway App to monitor their child's school experience, including attendance. To register please make sure the school has your email address and phone number. Details of how to register can be found on our website in the 'Parents' section.

Best wishes



Ms Egwuma
Head of School