



The  
Carlton  
Academy

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Head of School: Mr G Hillyard

Executive Headteacher: Mr D Philpotts

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Dear families,

As another term ends, it gives me great pleasure to write home and share some of my personal highlights of what has been a really positive first term of this academic year.

Our students continue to amaze me and fill me with pride with everything they achieve, both in school and outside of school. From being part of dance troops who have performed on the same stage as Diversity to being part of local pantomimes, from personal bests in national swimming contests to taking part in, and organising, charity events, our students have done so much out of school. In school, we have made a great start to the sporting year, with several teams progressing to the next rounds of their competitions and had some great rowing success in local competitions. We have celebrated Diwali, remembered the fallen on Remembrance Day and contributed to Children in Need. Students have visited universities, the Yorkshire Wildlife Park and the West End, and Year 7 have built relationships at Walesby. And this is just the tip of the iceberg! Normally I would direct you to the Carlton Celebrates newsletter but due to unforeseen circumstances this will be delayed until the new term.

The Christmas season always brings some of my favourite whole-school events. Our second annual Christmas Fair was a big success with us being joined by many of our students, staff, and parents. The singing and band were their usual amazing selves. We had a great range of stalls and a great time was had by all. This was followed by our Christmas jumper and dinner day, with the lunchtime karaoke a particular highlight. That same evening, I joined over 100 of our students at Nottingham Arts Theatre to watch their Panto – we all had a brilliant time. Finally, the response to our Bags of Blessing and foodbank campaigns have been as humbling as ever. Thank you so much for your contributions to these.

This Monday Year 11 received their mock exam results. Again, I was so proud of their achievements. I had the pleasure of giving back the results to over 20 students and it was great to celebrate their successes with them. The mock results put many of our students in a superb position come the final exams. With 5 months of preparation left to go, we could be in store for a stunning set of summer results. Our attention moves now to Year 13 whose mocks come up very swiftly after the break. Again, their current predictions are set to rival the exceptional set of results from last summer, which would be a superb achievement for them.

REDHILL  
ACADEMY TRUST

Equality and Achievement

There are so many things to celebrate at a whole-school level. Over 150,000 achievement points have been given to students this term, which is truly remarkable. The number of students who have 100% attendance is also significantly higher than last year. I have been impressed with student punctuality to lessons, engagement in lessons and their interactions with each other and staff. They are a real credit to you and should be proud of their achievements.

In terms of the end of term plans, we will finish at 12:45pm tomorrow. Students will be in period 1 and 2 as normal, albeit these lessons will be 1 hour 15 minutes long. They will then have an extended break before going to an extended tutor time with a whole-school celebration assembly to end the day. I am really looking forward to seeing who has won the end of term prizes for attendance, achievement points, and C+ contributions and who has won the Golden Ticket prizes.

We are only saying goodbye to one member of staff this term and that is Mr Thompson in PE. I wish him all the very best for the future.

Charles M. Schulz, the cartoonist who created Snoopy, said "It's not what's under the Christmas tree that matters, it's who's around it" and I think that is the perfect thought to end this letter with. I hope that you have a wonderful Christmas and hope that our students have the very best time with the people they spend their break with. I look forward to seeing them bright and breezy on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Gary Hillyard  
Head of School