



The
Carlton
Academy

The Carlton Academy

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Head of School: Mr G Hillyard

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Dear families,

I cannot believe that we are two-thirds of the way through this academic year already. Our students have packed lots into the last 11 weeks, from taking part in Trust and National rowing competitions, involvement in the annual Trust Book Awards as well as engaging with a huge number of trips and in-school opportunities, some of which I shared last half term in our Carlton Celebrates newsletter, and some of which I will share with you in the summer newsletter.

The final part of the Year 11 and Year 13 journey is upon us. Current predictions suggest that both year groups are going to do really well in the summer, rivalling the results of other local schools and colleges, but more importantly giving them the tools and grades for whatever their next steps will be. We of course hope that many of our Year 11s return to our Sixth Form in September. We are currently doing some work on ensuring the blocks allow the subject choices that our students wish to study. We have introduced some new flexibilities from September which will make Sixth Form feel a little more like college and we have just shared with students a teambuilding and enrichment trip to London which is open to current Year 11s returning in September to sign up for. I know the next few weeks will be ones of hard work, nervousness and testing the bounds of resilience, but we are all absolutely here for our students throughout this crucial period.

Speaking of Post-16, I wanted to celebrate with you our successes from last year. We had the school's most successful A-Level results last academic year, with our results being the fifth highest in the County, a massive achievement. Our students achieved a value-added score of 0.21 (not that far below the highest performing school which achieved 0.37) meaning that they did substantially better than they were predicted to. Moreover, the results for our CACHE Health and Social Care course were the highest in the county, with a value-added score of 1.86 which is massive. We were the second highest performing school in the country. What amazing achievements by our students.

You will know that community is really important to me and developing our school community as well as its relationship with the wider community, is a key part of my vision for the school. Two weeks ago, we had one of the best events of the year, our annual Golden Grove evening, where ex-students, teachers and residents of the local community come together for a night of food and music. It is a brilliant event which combines the new generation of Carlton students with the

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school's past. Next year sees the 50th event and the PTFA are already looking at how we are going to celebrate this. This week has also seen the school celebrate its own increasing diversity as we have had a culture week which has seen tutor groups research different countries from around the world and our dining room making a range of amazing world dishes, the culmination of which was our Culture Day and Culture Catwalk. This idea was not a staff one – it was suggested and driven by our Post-16 and School Councils. It was an amazing celebration of our schools' diversity of which we are all very proud.

I just want to give a little plug for our PTFA (Parent, Teachers, and Friends Association). We are one of the few secondary schools which still has a PTFA and they do an amazing job in supporting our school. From running the tuck shops at key events and collating and selling pre-loved uniform, to giving a donation to our students each year to support their learning, they are an invaluable part of our school community. They are always looking for new members to support their work so if you are interested in joining please email ptfa@theacademycarlton.org.

Building strong relationships with our parents is also a key part of developing our community. I will be in touch in the new term about a new opportunity for parents to join a forum to explore different aspects of school life and take views on how these might develop in the future. More on this to come.

School will close for the Easter break at the normal time, 3:10pm, on Friday 27 March. We will return on Monday 13 April, 8.35am. With longer breaks students often use the time to adorn themselves with additional studs and nails, test out new colours on their hair and buy new shoes to see them through the next half term. Uniform expectations on their return will remain the same, so if you need to check anything about these expectations they can be accessed on the school website [here](#).

Finally, I want to commend students on their efforts, hard work, and behaviour this term. We had an academy review in the spring, and the feedback from Trust colleagues about our students was amazing. I hope they take the opportunity to have a really good break and hope you get the opportunity to share that with them too.

Have a lovely Easter break.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Hillyard

Head of School