

Friday 8th April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your support this term. We have had a fantastic term of events, trips, extra-curricular and community events that we have been overwhelmed with such a positive response from the community – so I thank you for supporting us in this.

We are very proud of how hard our students have worked for their assessments and mocks and we are really proud of their continuing commitment to our core values of Amazing Grace, Intentional Excellence, Mutual Respect, Genuine Integrity and Limitless Potential.

Please continue to follow us on social media (Facebook and Twitter @GACoventry) to see all of our daily updates for parents and families. We are also delighted to announce that our new website is live – don't forget to update your browsers.

Academic Reports

Full reports have now been sent out for Years 7 and 9 and will be sent out for Years 8, 10 and 12 at the end of the summer term.

The reports for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 show your child's current reading age which is measured using Accelerated Reader and will be assessed again later in the year.

Please use the information in these reports to support your child. Please do not hesitate to contact the Academy if you have any questions.

Attendance

With Covid rates increasing this has been another challenging term in terms of attendance. Despite this, as an Academy we are still very pleased to see that our attendance rates remain above national average. We appreciate our staff and all their hard work and dedication in going above and beyond to cover any Covid staffing absence so we were able to avoid closing down any year groups. Thanks also goes to our students for coming in each day and valuing their education so they can achieve their Limitless Potential. Following the changes in Government guidance, students are now no longer required to isolate and schools are no longer required to set work for Covid absence. The Government's approach appears to be very much "back to normal" and we will have to wait and see the impact this will have in the forthcoming months.

This week we have been celebrating our students and their achievements in our Easter celebration assemblies. This term we have changed our approach to rewarding attendance. Previously students with 100% attendance would be rewarded with certificates and prizes (once we had removed any Covid related absence). After discussions with other professionals we have decided that "Maximum Attendance" will be rewarded, thereby giving all our students who attend school the opportunity to receive an attendance award and to be celebrated and recognised for their efforts. We know that some of our students who have on-going medical needs make every effort to attend school around medical appointments. This term and moving forwards we will be making a conscious

effort to recognise and celebrate their efforts alongside their fellow peers who consistently attend school. Into next term we will also be looking at rewarding students who have made significant efforts to improve their attendance and further engage with school for the final summer term.

Key Stage 3 Update

Transition

We have hosted two coffee mornings for Year 6 parents and are excited to welcome all of our new Year 7 students into school for the first time with various events, including a pizza party on 6th April. We are currently in the process of visiting local primary schools to meet with the students who will be coming to Grace.

Events and community engagement

In January we held a Knife Crime Awareness event in partnership with West Midlands Police. All students across the Academy learned about knife arches and aspects of policing knife crime, including who is at risk of cuckooing and grooming. To further build on this, on Wednesday 6th April, selected Year 7 students took part in an exciting virtual reality workshop with the theatre company, Round Midnight. This was a workshop focussed around knife crime and gang mentality.

This term we have had a number of careers' events and interventions, including our Miss Understood intervention aimed at raising girls' self-esteem and mentoring with our Assistant Heads of Key Stage and Youth Worker, Lewis.

Our Step Together team - in conjunction with Guiding Young Minds (GYM), Empower You and West Midlands Police, as well as our colleagues at Cardinal Wiseman - continue to work in the community, keeping our students' routes home safe.

Our staff have hand packed and delivered Easter Hampers to vulnerable families in the community to ensure that every child gets an egg this Easter.

We are continuing to work with external agencies to provide interventions, trips and events for our Key Stage 3 students so please do keep an eye out on our website and social media pages for updates (Grace Academy Coventry on Facebook, @GACoventry on Twitter).

Parents Evenings

We were delighted to see so many parents and carers at the Year 9 Parents' Evening – it was a welcome return to our face-to-face events. We would also like to thank the Year 9 parents for all your support with the options process.

A reminder that the Year 7 Parents' Evening will be on Thursday 28th April between 4pm and 6pm.

Rewards

This week all students were rewarded for their efforts across the term in our rewards assembly. Certificates and prizes were issued to students selected by Tutors, Head of Year, Assistant Principal and the Principal's Award in addition to maximum attendance awards.

A huge thank you to Miss Harvey and our Key Stage 3 Dance club who performed at every rewards assembly. The group also enjoyed a trip to the theatre this term and continue to represent the Academy and embody all of our values.

Year 7 students who demonstrate the Grace Way will also be treated to a rewards afternoon following the Easter break.

Key Stage 4 Update

Year 11 Period 6 Intervention

Period 6 intervention continued upon our return with the advanced offer of Technology catch-up on Mondays from 16:15–17:15. This was in addition to the English, Maths, Science, RE, History and Geography sessions which had been in place since Period 6 first began.

During the final two weeks of term, and to coincide with the AP2 assessments finishing, we customised our offer specifically to vocational subjects with upcoming coursework deadlines. BTEC Sport, Business, Textiles, Graphic Communications and Hospitality & Catering teachers all delivered coursework catch-up sessions. These sessions were very well attended.

We trialled starting these sessions at 3pm to ensure maximum productivity which worked really well and therefore all Period 6 interventions will now start at 3pm.

Year 11 Revision Support

As part of the Year 11 Parents' Evening held on 19th January we issued all those in attendance with a Student and Parent Revision Support Guide. Any students who have yet to receive these two fantastic guides should speak to Mrs Bradshaw to obtain one. These work extremely well in tandem with the two Elevate study skills sessions that took place earlier this year.

To support students further we will be putting together a bespoke revision plan/package for all Year 11 students which gives you an overview of all the exams. This will be shared upon return after the Easter break.

Year 11 Mentoring

During last term we commenced our mentoring programme for Year 11 students. Our intention was for all Year 11 students to be assigned a staff member as their mentor – which was completed. If your son/daughter is still not aware of who their mentor is we would encourage them to speak to Mrs Bradshaw.

Year 11 UCL Tutoring

In addition to the above, 10 students were selected from Year 11 by University College London as part of their 'mytutor' tutoring programme focussing on English and Maths. The programme has been a success thus far and this is a partnership we are intending to continue.

Books From Around the World

As mentioned in last term's letter, Marcus Rashford's 'You Are A Champion' and Adam Kay's 'Kay's Anatomy' were distributed to a select group of students as part of our 'Books From Around the World' initiative. These books were extremely popular and more copies were placed in our library. We would therefore ask if your son/daughter has a particular book they are interested in we would absolutely love any recommendations for our next 'Books From Around the World' launch. The books chosen for this first launch were based around topical issues/authors at that time. Please contact: kieronbrehon@graceacademy.org.uk if you have any recommendations.

Year 9 Options

Year 9 students submitted their final option choices during this term and they are currently being processed with members of the leadership team. The guidance meetings will take place over a two day period upon our return, where your son/daughter will sit with a member of the leadership team to discuss their final option choices.

Ethos and Wellbeing Update

This term has seen our students inspired through National Careers Week and our Science Department brought awe and wonder during British Science Week through a variety of extra-curricular activities and a science show making ice cream from dry ice.

We celebrated the talent of our fantastic students from our 'Rising Voices' spoken word club as they shared their heartfelt passions during World Poetry Day. Our students made interactive displays and videos to share their knowledge of Fairtrade Fortnight. We also had the delight of seeing our staff dress up for World Book Day.

We have been busy fundraising for our Charity of the Year, Myton Hospice, through a non-school uniform day and staff taking part in their charity walk. We are looking forward to raising further funds for Myton. Our total fundraising at the moment stands at £750.

The National Citizen Service ("NCS") have been very active in our Academy by sharing their summer opportunities with our Year 11 and Post 16 students as well as Skills Booster sessions with our Post 16 students. We had the privilege of our Year 13 students attending the National Apprenticeships Fayre where we were able to meet businesses and Further Education providers. IM Group have been in this term to lead a Year 10 workshop focused upon employability skills and CV writing.

We have enjoyed exploring the 'Understanding Christian Perspectives' aspect of our Academy by exploring what Easter means to each of us individually through Assemblies, Tutor Time and Year 7 RE Lessons.

Ramadan Mubarak to all of our students and families celebrating the Holy month.

Sixth Form Update

Sixth Form has had an extremely busy term. A large proportion of our students sat a round of their external vocational exams in January, and we are pleased to say that they have received some fantastic results, which will contribute towards their final grades.

We were privileged that a number of our Sixth Form students were able to go on the Meggitt trip to gain an insight into the opportunities available to them within the Engineering sector. Our students were very proud to return and inform us that they had won the engineering team challenge whilst on the trip.

Alongside visiting Meggitt, a group of our Year 13 students visited an Apprenticeship Fayre at Millenium Point in Birmingham, where they had the opportunity to meet with over 50 businesses in different industry sectors. In addition to those students applying for apprenticeships, many of our Year 13 students have started to receive their university offers, and are currently making their final decision as to where they would like to study at degree level next year.

We have been building on our enrichment programme, with all Year 12 students participating in our Coventry Building Society Employability Skills Workshop, which continues into the summer term and helps to enhance their transferable skills within their future studying and careers. Our Year 12

students have also been actively mentoring on a one-to-one basis with some of our Year 7 students, working on helping them to improve their literacy skills by reading with them, and also their mathematical skills by completing some maths tutoring during morning form time on a weekly basis.

In January we were delighted to announce that Emmanuel and Julia were appointed as our Head Boy and Head Girl here at Grace Academy, Coventry, following their fantastic applications and showing vision and passion during their interviews. They are being supported by Divine and Husna who have both taken on the role of Deputy to support Emmanuel and Julia in their work around the Academy.

Safeguarding and Family Support

As a school, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and members of the school community is most important to us.

As we break for the Easter holiday, if you have any immediate concerns for the safety or welfare of a child please contact MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) on 024 7678 8555

If you need support for yourself over the Easter holiday, please contact your local family hub: [coventry family hub easter activities](#).

Family Hub aim to reach children, young people and families when the need first emerges and to help and support at the time to have the greatest impact.

- Early Help: telephone 0800 8870545 or email: earlyhelp@coventry.gov.uk
- Emergency Duty Team: telephone 024 7683 2222 between 5pm and 8.30am and during weekends
- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Huh (MASH): telephone 024 7678 8555

Coventry Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme are running a range of activities over Easter. If you are wanting to find out more about free school holiday clubs, experiences and food this Easter break for children eligible for free school meals, please take a look at the spring brochure here: [HAF Programme](#). Our Family Support Worker, Miss Scott, has emailed a link and details of the activities that still have availability.

Kooth are also providing Easter break support over the next two weeks. Kooth provides free, safe and anonymous support for young people's mental wellbeing. Find out what's on Kooth this April at: <https://www.kooth.com/>

At Grace Academy Coventry we are looking for an additional Parent Governor who can offer support to the school in a professional capacity as we continue our development. This opportunity is a commitment to the school, and would suit a parent who has professional experience, either in education or industry, and would be able to support us with experience in HR, finance, communications or apprenticeship opportunities. If you would like to have an informal discussion regarding this, please email sarahmccadam@graceacademy.org.uk for further information.

Our caterers, Cucina, have sent some tips for families at Eastertime: [Happy Easter from Cucina](#)

Arrangements for Return

Please note the following dates for next term:

Start of term for all students: Monday 25th April 2022

May Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May 2022

End of Term: Friday 27th May 2022

We hope you enjoy the Easter break and look forward to welcoming our students again at the normal time on Monday 25th April 2022.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "N Whiles".

Mrs N Whiles

Principal