

EH/RWi/1180

11 May 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian

I wanted to take this opportunity to explain the arrangements for the final few weeks of Year 12 at the Academy. We are entering an exceptionally busy time of year with AS examinations and BTEC coursework deadlines and I would be grateful of any support that you can provide to ensure that your son/daughter is as successful as possible this academic year.

Following examinations there are a series of events that run which would disrupt classroom teaching. As a consequence we are running Project Weeks to enable students to make the most of this time and to help them to bridge the gap between Year 12 and Year 13. These weeks have been successfully run now for the past few years. In the first parts of these weeks (Monday 6 June until Tuesday 14 June), students will need to be in the Academy and they will be attending all lessons as normal. During these lessons staff will be introducing new topics and will be setting the project. All departments set their own projects designed to prepare students for work that will be undertaken in Year 13. On Wednesday 15 June we have organised a Year 12 experience day, followed the next day (Thursday 16 June) by a Careers Day. Both of these days are compulsory and have been designed to get students to think carefully about their options after Post 16 education. On Friday 17 June there is a visit to Alton Towers.

Whilst students are thinking about next steps after studying at the Academy, we are also holding a higher education evening for parents of students who are interested in applying to university next year. This will be held on Wednesday 16 June at 6pm. As you will know, university applications are becoming more competitive and students require guidance if they wish to make a successful application. During the course of the evening we will focus upon helping students to make a quality application and student finance. The issue of finance is one in which we have received several requests for information and I hope that our own research into this area will be of benefit to you. We will also be hosting a further event in 2012 to go through up to date details on university finance. The evening should be finished by 7.30pm. If you can attend please return the reply slip to Mrs Hill by Friday 27 May 2011.

From 17 June, for the next 4 weeks, students will be off timetable to work on their projects. Study facilities at the Academy will be available and students will have access to the Post 16 Information Centre during the normal Academy day. During this time students will be encouraged to visit universities and to undertake any work experience that they may need for their future career plans. Whilst students can attend university open days

