

23 November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

I write to you at the end of what has been another really busy but very positive term here at CAM.

Firstly, my thanks go to all of our students who have helped out at the numerous activities and events throughout the term. My thanks also go to all parents and carers who have attended events or meetings to provide support throughout the year. Particular thanks go to those parents who have been able to come along to the half termly Parents' Forum meetings, where we discuss how we can improve the academy further. I encourage all parents / carers to look out for the future dates for these meetings and to come along if you can.

I am pleased to be able to report that the significant building project that is ongoing is currently on schedule and is beginning to look really exciting. Last week I had the pleasure of taking a group of our student council members on site for a tour of the site. I would like to commend our students and staff for the way that they are coping with the temporary disruption while the building work is completed. My thanks also go to parents, carers and local residents for bearing with the disruption. One of the issues that parents raised at our most recent Parents' Forum meeting was the parking situation at the front of the academy at the end of the school day. At its busiest point, we have cars double parked and even parked up on the footpath. This makes it dangerous for academy students to come out and cross the road safely. I would ask that parents who are picking students up at the end of the day keep this in mind and park a little further away from the academy gates so that we can keep students as safe as possible. I have discussed this issue with the Chief Inspector for police recently and she shares my concerns and is looking to see if they can support in managing the traffic at this time, including enforcing the parking restrictions already in place. We do hope to be able to offer better parking / drop off / pick up arrangements once the building work has finished.

Many of our parents will have received this letter (and other communications) via the academy app rather than through the post. This enables us to get communications to you much more quickly, and in a more environmentally friendly way. It will also save the academy significant amounts of money throughout the year, which we will be able to better spend on the students themselves. I urge all parents / carers to download the app if they have not already done so as this is now our first and main means of communication. Instructions on how to do this can be found on the academy website at <http://www.cam.coop/parents/app>

Our new Year 7 cohort have made a superb start during their time at the academy, and I am delighted that we were oversubscribed this September, with a significant waiting list for places. This is testament to the fantastic work that staff and students do every day and to the reputation that we are jointly building as a centre of excellence.

As we draw to the end of the term, it is timely to remind all parents / carers that a full list of term dates and training dates can be found on the academy website. Please ensure that you check these in advance of booking any holidays as requests for holiday during term time will not be authorised.

Arrangements for the last day of this term are as follows:

The last day of term is Tuesday 19 December, the academy closes for students at 12 noon on this day. We are operating a 'dress down' day for staff and students on the last day of term. Students are therefore allowed to come in to the academy in 'non-uniform'. Please be advised – if I deem a

student's attire to be unacceptable (e.g. extreme or offensive), I will send them home to change (this includes exposed midriffs). Dress-down is optional for students and those who wish to, may still wear normal academy uniform. We are encouraging all students who wish to take part in the dress down day to wear a festive jumper. All students wishing to take part in the dress-down day should bring a donation of £1. The money raised this year will contribute towards our nominated family charities.

There is no standard lunch service for students on the last day, as students will be leaving the academy at 12.00 noon. Students who are entitled to a free school meal will be able to order a 'grab a bag' meal.

The academy re-opens as normal for students on Thursday 4 January 2018.

I know many students receive new shoes / clothes over the Christmas break. May I take this opportunity to remind all parents of the academy uniform policy (which can be found on the website) so that students do not start the new term in the wrong uniform. This extends to jewellery, piercings and hairstyles / colour.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas break and a peaceful New Year.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Brice  
**Principal**