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10 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: End of Term plans and information for January 2022 return to the academy

Yet again I write to you at a time of uncertainty for us all. The past 12 months have been challenging in many ways so once again I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support and resilience over these 'strangest of times'.

Despite the challenges, the work and commitment of the students has been outstanding and we have again seen some amazing achievements across the academy, including many of our academy sports fixtures being able to recommence this term such as football, dodgeball and cross country events. Additionally, our year 10 boys & girls Indoor Rowing Teams have done exceptionally well, winning Silver and Gold respectively in the North Solihull Indoor Rowing competition with both teams going on to represent North Solihull in the County Finals in January. We wish both teams all the best for this upcoming tournament.

Also of note is the follow up academy activities that come on the back of National Poetry Day on 07.10.2021, where we held an academy poetry competition which generated an amazing and highly eloquent level of work by the students, with poems based around the theme of 'Empowerment'. Although all efforts were noted, winners and runners up were selected after a tough deliberation process, [the relevant poems for which can be found on our website](#).

Finally, our production of High School Musical is well underway with rehearsals being held over the October half term and after school in this Autumn 2 term to ensure acts one and two are exemplary. The students are very excited to be able to present this story to the Grace Academy Solihull community, especially after the last few years of interruptions to their education. Thank you to parents/carers and staff for all your support with this and we look forward to providing further information about tickets and performances come the new year.

Students have also been making the most of the investments we have made around the academy. For instance in outdoor areas where we have our new astro turf and state of the art multi gym. Sixth formers are also enjoying their dedicated university art spaces and the ICT rooms will be refreshed shortly to ensure our students have the best access to facilities across the academy.

For updates and latest information please log onto our website where there is further detail and [support for students, parents and carers](#). I would also ask again that you speak with your children about staying safe online and ask that you are vigilant about the sites and media they are accessing. Again information and [guidance](#) can be found on our website.

For your information the police crimes commissioner has funded a new initiative called *Step Together*, so you may have seen some members of this project stationed at certain points along Chapelhouse Road supporting the community during busy times; they can be identified by their lanyards and badges. We are awaiting extra information about this initiative from the commissioner and will communicate this to you after the holidays.

As the academy has grown to nearly full capacity we are seeing an increase in traffic both in and around the site. Can I ask all drivers to be mindful and respectful to others in relation to speed and parking both within and around the academy. We also have a number of disabled parents and carers who drop their children off have dedicated parking bays available for them, therefore can I ask that these are kept clear for blue badge holders only please.

Finally, with regards to the Christmas break, please note that we will be closing for this term at 12:00 on Friday 17 December, to allow for essential maintenance work to begin over the break. All students will return on Wednesday 5 January for normal lessons, with Covid testing taking place for students who have given consent on Tuesday 4 January. More information about the testing day will be published on [our website](#) in due course, so please check this regularly for updates regarding this and any other updates that may need to be passed on to you over the Christmas break. We would also like to strongly advise that in line with government guidance, all students continue to test themselves over the festive period and test kits will be available from the academy up until the last day of Friday 17 December.

I hope that everyone has a peaceful and safe Christmas with family and loved ones and that once again our hopes for a better new year become a reality.

Yours sincerely



Mr Darren Gelder

Principal

For and on behalf of Tove Learning Trust