



Chapelhouse Road
Chelmsley Wood
Birmingham
B37 5JS
United Kingdom
Telephone Number: 0121 329 4600
solihull@graceacademy.org.uk

13 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: End of Autumn 2 Term and Start of January 2025

As we reach the end of this term, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that we've achieved together over the past few months. It has been a busy and rewarding time, filled with hard work, growth, and some wonderful moments of success both inside and outside the classroom. Our students have shown incredible dedication and resilience, and we are so proud of everything they've accomplished. Recent published results for students outcomes yet again places us in a top position in the borough. As we head into the break, I'd like to express my gratitude for your continued support and partnership in helping your children and our community thrive.

The academy year started off well with our newest year 7 cohort settling very well, while other years groups have continued to make good progress in all subjects. Across the academy students from all years groups have been involved in a number of student workshops, sporting activities, open evenings and now Christmas events. We have had workshops for students around Building Healthy Relationships, Black History Month, Remembrance Day and Self Esteem Workshops, some of which were delivered by external speakers as well as by our Academy Ethos Team. Our Post 16 students also gave up their own time to assist with the organisation and running of the Community Christmas Meal on 06 December. Both staff and students were thanked by the 80 guests that attended. In line with Christmas, we also had a large number of excellent entries for our annual Christmas Card Competition - well done to all, your creativity and skill has really been noted this year. From this vast selection, we would like to congratulate Anwen Holmes, our first place winner, for her beautifully painted card with a wintery Owl scene. Second and third place winners are Daisy Steele and Oliver Chester respectively. We will also be holding our annual Christmas Fayre on Thursday 19th December from 5 - 7 pm, which is always a highlight of this term. We look forward to welcoming you into the academy to enjoy a festive evening with family and friends.

Other events that we've had include our Parent/Carer Workshops run by the Mental Health Support Team which covered various topics, including Cyberbullying and how to understand and deal with friendship issues. These have been extremely popular both for the information they provide, as well as the guest speakers that frequent them. On Monday 11 November, the academy took some time to remember those lost in conflicts, both past and current. This observance was in addition to a tutor session dedicated to Remembrance Sunday. The respect that all students showed was testament to the maturity of our pupils.

As always we are also focused on how we can support parents and carers, so in addition to the [parent/carers space on our website](#), which contains some excellent information, we also have [our food market](#) still available, which continues to offer fresh food for our academy community through the Langar Aid Food Bank. We also have uniform items, both preloved and new, available that have been kindly donated by external organisations and members of our own school community. If you would like further information on these support types, please contact the academy via gas-communitylink@graceacademy.org.uk. Solihull Council also has a [website with advice and assistance](#) to help families in the local community.

Please continue to support your child over the holidays by monitoring their phone usage and safety online. Our website has further details and [support for students as well as for parents and carers](#). I ask that you are vigilant about the websites and media they are accessing and if you require any [guidance](#) around this, please again I urge you to check our website.

In relation to safety, please can we ask that you speak with your child about being vigilant and keeping themselves, and their personal belongings safe whilst traveling to and from school and during the Christmas holiday. Please speak specifically to your child about keeping their mobile phone in their pockets or bags when walking alone. Also, where possible, children should walk in groups and avoid alleyways.

As you will have noticed, attendance at the academy is still a key focus throughout this year so far and will continue to be a top priority as we go forward. Every lesson missed by a young person has a direct impact on their outcomes and progress. I again ask for your support in ensuring your child attends the academy whenever possible, and to be reassured that if we feel they are not well enough to be here, we will contact you. If you need any support with your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact their Head of year.

I would like to please also ask all parents/carers to take the Christmas break as a time to review your child's [uniform](#). We take the high standards we have around uniform seriously, as it reflects the values and culture we want to create for all our learners. As a reminder skirts should be knee length and be of the approved design (see the academy website), leggings are not able to be worn in place of trousers, trainers are not allowed in the academy and nor are hoodies. With the onset of the colder weather, please remind your child to wear a warm coat to and from the academy. A full explanation of our uniform can be found on our website or please feel free to contact the head of year for your child if you require clarification.

Finally, with regards to the Christmas break, please note that we will be closing for this term at **12.00 pm on Friday 20 December 2024**, to allow for essential maintenance work to begin over the Christmas break. All students will return on **Monday 6 January 2025 from 8.20 am** for normal lessons.

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
Executive Principal
For and on behalf of Tove Learning Trust