



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

04 April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Easter Break 2025

As we head towards Easter the days at last begin to lengthen and we are approaching the end of another busy but good term, I thought I would write to you and share what great work has gone on at the academy. As ever our success can only be achieved through the support we have from parents and carers, Each one of you chose this academy as you believe in what we stand for in relation to expectations and standards which I would personally like to thank you for.

The academy has been extremely busy elsewhere; World Book Day on March 6 was once again a fantastic event and once again we would like to thank *The Works* in Chelmsley Wood for supporting this through their extremely generous donations of books. On the day we had a "Bookie Breakfast", a World Book Market at break time where over 250 books were given out to students and there were tutor time activities with a Quiz to mention just some of the activities. We have also had a wealth of student opportunities both on and off site including an NHS 'Day in the life of a midwife' trip for a selection of yr 10 students at Birmingham's Heartlands Hospital, , and Big Brum Theatre showcasing their Jekyll and Hyde Theatre in Education performance which tackles the very in depth themes of relationships, human nature and good vs evil. A number of our students are currently preparing for a football trip to the Netherlands where they will be visiting and working with the PSV football team. I am sure this will be a lasting and memorable experience. We also continue with our Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme and we will shortly be hosting an awards evening for students who have completed their Bronze award and already the uptake for the next round is impressive.

Once again we have had a massive 84 students from years 7 to 9 have their work published in a recent poetry anthology called *The Beautiful Truth*. Being published in a national anthology is a significant accomplishment, and we are incredibly proud of each student who poured their heart and soul into their writing. Their poems not only reflected their writing and their individual voices but also showcased the depth of thought and emotion and their words remind us of the power of truth and the beauty of self-expression. Our Yr 7 Boys football team have also been doing fantastically in their league where they are now awaiting confirmation of their opponents for the final match; we wish them all the best for later this year. All good news stories and events are on our [website](#).

As we come towards the final term of the year, there are many integral processes that are well underway for the transition steps for the various Key stages in the academy. For instance Year 10 students will be completing Vocational Days on 28 & 29 April which will include completing controlled assessments in order to complete external coursework deadlines. Mock Interviews have also been a key feature for year 11 and 12 students, as well as 1:1 sessions for yr 12 students with mentors to discuss career path options, as we come towards the time of the year where next steps are looked at, after secondary and Post 16 education. These mock interviews and mentor sessions were with industry professionals from a variety of sectors and have been extremely valuable to our students. In year 9 students are well underway with their Pathways process where they are making informed decisions about their future option choices based on conversions from the recent KS3 Parent Review Day and career aspirations.

I am sure a number of parents and carers will have also received their acknowledgement of a Year 7 place at Grace Academy Solihull; we were once again massively over subscribed which is once again a true reflection of the trust and confidence that you have in our ability to care for and educate your child. We have increased our year 7 numbers to support our local community and local authority to the largest intake we

have had in recent years. More information will be coming out over the next few months for new starters, but even so I look forward to welcoming you to Grace and congratulations on receiving a place.

Finally for the all important upcoming GCSE and A Level exam period, staff will be working over Easter, in their own time, with exam groups to ensure they have the best opportunity of success and a programme of revision sessions will be communicated to students as well as being available on the website. If it applies to your child I would strongly encourage you to support them in attending.

A reminder to parents/carers around online safety; we would ask again that you speak with your children about staying safe online, ask that you are vigilant about the websites and media they are accessing and if you require any [guidance](#) around this, please check our website again where there is further detail and [support for students, parents and carers](#).

A reminder as well about the academy uniform expectations, please make sure that if your child does not have the right footwear for school that this is rectified over the Easter break; full details of which can be found [here](#).

As ever the focus of students reaching their potential is key for all of us, which can only be achieved by you supporting us in ensuring students attend. The message is very clear both nationally and from our experience that students who miss school do less well in all areas of their progress. Again I can reassure you that if we feel you need to be contacted about your child if they are not well, we will not hesitate. A reminder also **that the academy day starts at 8.20 am**, which is when the student gate is opened, and students should be reminded that they need to make their way to period 1 lessons promptly, therefore punctuality is key to avoiding being given a late detention or missing out on their morning attendance marks.

Our fresh food market continues to operate and is extremely well received; this opportunity is open to all parents and carers of students in the academy, and if you feel this would be beneficial to you, I would again, encourage you to contact our academy Family Support Worker, Mrs Bromley via gas-communitylink@graceacademy.org.uk for further information.

On the last day of this term, Friday 11 April, we will be finishing at 12.30 pm to allow a number of projects to begin around the academy site. As I mention regularly, our success and that of your child can only happen through working in partnership with you around all aspects of your child whilst attending the academy, particularly in relation to attendance, behaviour and attitude to learning. I hope you and your family have a restful Easter break and we look forward to welcoming our students back for the summer term on **Monday 28 April at 8.20 am**.

Yours sincerely



Mr Darren Gelder
Executive Principal
For and on behalf of Tove Learning Trust