

6 December 2011

Dear Parent/ Carer

I write to outline the end of term arrangements and of our dates for re-opening in January 2012.

On Wednesday 14 December we will hold our Winter Wonderland Festive Celebration. You are welcome to join us for a Christmas market in the Academy entrance atrium from 6.00pm followed by dance, drama and song performed by Academy students and primary school students from 7.00pm. Tickets are available from reception at £3.50 (£2.00 concessions) and selling fast!

It is vital that your child attends the Academy up to and including the last day of term. I have written to parents on a number of occasions to highlight the importance of good attendance. I am pleased to report that student attendance during this academic year to the end of November is at 95.8%, a record high for the Academy. Your support on improving attendance is valued and we aim to improve on this figure over the remainder of the academic year.

On Friday 16 December the term will end at 12.05pm. During the morning we will operate a normal timetable which will include end of term assessments in the following areas;

Year 7	PE and English
Year 8	ICT, Entrepreneurship and Technology
Year 9	RS and PE assessments
Year 10	Mathematics GCSE
Year 11	Science GCSE
Sixth Form	Normal morning timetable

From 8.00am a free Christmas breakfast will be available for students who arrive early. Lessons will commence at 8.40am, with a mid-morning break including festive celebrations. We will conclude lessons and assessments at 11.30am and end the term with tutor periods and festive assemblies before students depart at 12.05pm. If any student is entitled to a free school meal, or wishes to stay for a school meal, the

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canteen will be open until 12.30pm. Students are expected to wear full Academy uniform.

In the New Year, the Academy will re-open to staff on Tuesday 3 January and re-open for students on Wednesday 4 January. If your child is in the Sixth Form can I urge you to remind them to complete independent study over the Christmas holidays. The AS and A2 January examination season commences on 10 January 2012.

The Academy has had an excellent year in 2011. Our highlights include:

- Record GCSE results
- Record A Level results
- Increased Sixth Form progression to University
- Record student attendance levels

A major highlight was undoubtedly the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in April giving staff and students some great memories.

As we enter the winter months with the potential for inclement weather, should the need arise for closure of the Academy due to snow we will update parents via:

- Local radio: The Bee, frequency 107FM
Radio Lancashire 95.5FM, 103.9FM
- Our Keep Kids Safe text service
- The Academy website, www.daca.uk.com

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support and wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely

BRENDAN LOUGHRAN
Principal