



April 2019

Dear Families

### End of Spring Term

As we come to the end of the Spring term, it is a good time to reflect on all we have achieved this term; to remind you of some important changes, and to look forward to an even more successful Summer term. I would like to thank you all for your continued support for the Academy. I also thank you for working in partnership with us to ensure that your child always achieves their best. Below are some of the key achievements of this term:

#### Attendance and Punctuality

We have continued to make improvements in attendance over the term. Thank you all for making sure your child attends every day and is here on time. We have reduced lateness to the Academy and will continue to make this a priority in the coming months.

#### Uniform

Thank you for supporting students in maintaining high standards of uniform. If any families are considering buying replacement footwear for students over the Easter period, please refer to the guidance on our website. Shoes must be black, polishable, leather-type shoes with a small heel – i.e. not Converse, Vans or trainer style footwear. Black trainers are not permitted.

#### Communications and Social Media

We are pleased that we are now able to communicate information with families more effectively through social media. I hope that parents ensure that students who post comments on the Thorns Facebook page follow guidelines for safe and responsible on-line behaviour. In addition to this, the Facebook Inbox Message Facility is occasionally checked out of the Academy hours (evenings and weekends) but this is not a regular occurrence. Please be aware that you may not receive an immediate response to messages sent to this facility. We also ask that enquiries are sensible and written in an appropriate tone. We look forward to continued effective dialogue with our community.

We welcome communication from families and appreciate that it is an important part of our work. We shall endeavour to communicate messages to the appropriate staff promptly. If you need to meet with us, then you must ring in advance to make an appointment. This is in order for us to facilitate an effective start to the academy day and to minimise disruption to teaching. Your first point of contact as families should always be your child's form teacher.

A charitable Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales Company No. 6336693

SHIRELAND  
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY TRUST

Registered Office:  
Waterloo Road  
Smethwick  
B66 4ND



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## Letter

Shortly you will receive a letter with the email address that we hold on file, please do check this and let us know of any issues as next term we endeavour to send letters and reports to you by email.

## Updates

May I take this opportunity to remind parents that if students choose to bring a mobile device to Academy, it must not be visible anywhere on site. If you need to get an urgent message to your son or daughter during the day, please contact reception on 01384 816225 and we will ensure that the message is passed on. If students do bring mobile device to Academy, we will not take responsibility for loss or damage.

As you are aware, Thorns is a chewing gum free site. This has given us the opportunity to address the litter problem caused by gum and the unpleasant and offensive sight of chewing gum stuck in places such as underneath classroom tables. Thorns is also a non-smoking site and no-one, including visitors and adult users, should be smoking once on site.

We will also be saying 'goodbye' to some of our teacher colleagues at the end of this term. Mr Gary Baker, Dr Charles Erb, Mrs Rachel Clancy and Mrs Sylvia Butler will be leaving us after many years of service. We wish them the very best for the future and thank them for the support they have given to students, staff and families.

## Sports

The Spring term is always full of fixtures and activities for the PE department; the final Basketball, girls Football and Netball fixtures are held alongside the second set of boys Football and Rugby games. There have been 41 fixtures this term against other Dudley Schools as well as 5 tournaments! Our notable success fell within Basketball; our U13 Boys were league champions. Congratulations should also be given to Luke Bryant who was named 'Most Valuable Player' at the recent U15 Rugby tournament. Other school achievements include finishing second in the Year 7 girls Football league, second in the boys U13 Football tournament and third in the Boys U15 Rugby event. Next term there will be an opportunity for students to compete in the Dudley Schools Athletics competition as well as the Rounders league; we will also continue to run our recreational sports programme. Well done to all students who have participated this term!

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## Forthcoming Events

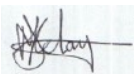
Please find below some key dates for your diary:

- Year 10 Mock Exams                      Monday, 29 April to Friday, 10 May 2019
- Year 11 GCSE Written Exams                      Begin on Monday, 13 May 2019  
  
Year 7 – Tuesday, 7 May and Thursday, 16 May 2019  
**(Form Tutors only)**
- Parents Evenings                      Year 10 – Thursday, 13 June 2019  
Year 8 – Wednesday, 26 June 2019
- Year 11 Prom                      Thursday, 27 June 2019

**We will finish early on Friday, 12 April 2019.** Lessons before break will be as normal. Break will be longer than usual to allow students to get hot food. Students will be dismissed by their form teachers at 12.40pm. Interim progress reports will be handed to students before they are dismissed from their form group.

As the new academic term approaches, I am excited about our journey to become an outstanding Academy. Your partnership in this journey is very important and I look forward to working with you to provide our young people with an education they can be proud of. I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break and I look forward to welcoming your child back, smart in their uniform and fully prepared for learning, on Monday, 29 April 2019.

Yours Faithfully



**Mr M Kelay**  
Principal

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