



December 2020

Dear Families,

### End of Term Letter

It has been an unusual Autumn term with Corona Virus impacting on peoples' lives. We as a school have done everything to ensure a degree of continuity with learning and progress of our students. We appreciate the support that our families have provided to us during the term. As we come to the end of the autumn term at Thorns we would like to bring your attention to a few matters.

### Parking on Stockwell Avenue

We would like to thank all parents and carers who collect and drop off students at the Academy and have been mindful of how they park. We continue to encourage all parents and carers not to block the driveways of residents on Stockwell Avenue. We also ask that you park away from the Academy entrance to allow the students to leave the Academy safely and that you try not to block the pavements so that pedestrians can walk safely with pushchairs and younger children.

### Uniform expectations

On our return in January, we look forward to greeting our students back to the Academy in full Academy uniform. We hope that you will use the Christmas break to rectify any uniform issues and this particularly means appropriate footwear. Black leather or leather look shoes are required to be worn by all students. Can I please take this opportunity to remind families that any type of hoodie is not to be worn as part of our uniform. In addition, multiple studs and nose rings are not allowed nor are extreme haircuts (bright, unnatural colours or patterns) or false nail extensions.

Please see our website for further guidance.

### Christmas Celebrations

Many thanks to all parents and carers who joined in with our Christmas celebrations. The Craft Fair was very much enjoyed by students, families and staff alike.

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## **Charlie Burgoyne Scholarship Fund**

We will be hosting our annual 'Wear Pink' day in February as part of efforts to raise money in memory of our former student. More details to follow in January.

## **Dates for your diary**

Monday 4th January 2021 INSET Day for staff. **Academy closed to ALL students.**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 - Year 11 Parents Evening

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - Year 9 Parents Evening

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February - Half Term

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March - Family Forum Meeting 6.30 - 7.30pm

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April - Spring Term Ends

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Good Friday

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April - Summer Term Starts

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May - May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June – Half Term

Wednesday 21 July - last day of the academic year for staff and students

## **Parent Communication**

Once again can families please be aware that contact with a member of staff is best addressed to the info box: [info@tca.shirelandcat.net](mailto:info@tca.shirelandcat.net) Please mark all communications for the attention of the member of staff who you want to reach. Staff will endeavour to respond within two working days.

If possible, we request that families do not use social media to express concerns and complaints about the Academy, but allow us the opportunity to respond constructively.

Any medical appointments should be written in your child's planner, or the original appointment letter/card sent in. Please remind your child of the time they need to come to reception.

We are always keen to support families; on the rare occasion, you may need to bring in an item for your child, please try to give us as much time as possible to deliver to your son/daughter.

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SHIRELAND  
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY TRUST

Registered Office:  
Waterloo Road  
Smethwick  
B66 4ND



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### Ofsted Visit in November

We recently had a visit from Ofsted, which was conducted remotely by two HMI. Staff met with the two inspectors over the course of one day and the attached letter provides a summary report of the visit. The leadership team provided inspectors with a detailed set of actions that we had taken during the national pandemic with a focus on the Autumn term. Whilst these types of Ofsted visits do not provide schools with any type of judgement or evaluation, it was a good opportunity for us to demonstrate the effectiveness of actions that we had taken at both Academy and Trust level.

### End of term arrangements

As per the letter from Sir Mark Grundy, Thursday 17 December will be our last day before we break for Christmas. Students will be expected to attend in full Academy uniform; however, they can wear their Christmas jumper. All students will have an opportunity to have a lunch before they leave. Students will then be dismissed from the Academy from 1.30pm onwards.

We are taking this opportunity as a staff body to come together to remember our dear friend and colleague Kate Fox, who sadly passed away earlier this year.

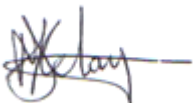
### Message from the PTFA

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the PTFA, thanking everyone for their support. Our next virtual meeting is Tuesday, 19 January 2020 at 7pm, all parents welcome. If you would like to join us please contact us at [info@tca.shirelandcat.net.uk](mailto:info@tca.shirelandcat.net.uk) and we will send you a link.

There will be a staff training day on Monday 4 January, so students will NOT be expected to attend on this date. We look forward to seeing students back in the Academy at **8.40am on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.

Many thanks for your continued support and we wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours Sincerely



**Mr M S Kelay**  
Principal

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