

Friday 24 September 2021

**Praise  
and  
Recognition**



THE BULWELL ACADEMY

Principal's  
Weekly



*with Mr Nash*

Another great week draws to a close at The Bulwell Academy with so much to celebrate.

Our incredible students are thriving, and three weeks in, our Year 7s and 8s are navigating the school site with much greater confidence, arriving at lessons in a timely fashion and getting straight down to business. I am delighted that we have been able to provide a much more 'normal' school experience for all our students and many have shared feelings of enjoying school even more since being able to move through the site to their lessons. A change of scenery throughout the day is proving popular with all.

I had the pleasure of observing our morning line-ups throughout the week, and described by Mrs Wilkinson, one of our brilliant Learning Assistants, as a scene out of the acclaimed *Swan Lake*, it was magnificent watching such smart children move so respectfully to their Tutor Reading Groups. We have recently added a background theme of classical music that is played as students arrive to school and prepare for their line-ups. Our line-ups provide an opportunity for our Year Managers to share praise and recognition to individuals and groups of students for their achievements throughout the week. Starting next week, we will be rewarding students with gift vouchers for various things, including exemplary conduct, brilliant attendance, hard work in lessons and random acts of kindness. We have also launched our free dinner ticket reward strategy to thank students seen behaving brilliantly and leading by example. The ticket, that also allows the students to jump the queue, can be exchanged for a free full dinner and drink of their choice. I can imagine this will be particularly well received on Fish and Chip Fridays!

As you know, at The Bulwell Academy, we quite literally 'bookend' the school day with reading. Our new Drop Everything and Read activity that takes place at the end of every day is proving a real hit with our avid readers. Providing both our students and staff with an opportunity to read a book of their personal choice is a fantastically calming and purposeful end to the day for all. We are already seeing many students challenging themselves to read stories that will greatly improve their vocabulary and comprehension skills as they explore different authors and genres. Speaking to children at break and lunch time about the books they are reading is wonderful. I have no doubt that your children will be among the best read in the county, possibly the country.

The Arts are an incredibly important element of life at The Bulwell Academy and Miss Crick kicked off our extra-curricular offer, taking our GCSE Drama students to the Theatre Royal Nottingham to watch the brilliant *Blood Brothers*. The musical by Liverpoolian playwright Willy Russell, revolves around twin boys, Mickey and Edward, who are separated at birth and brought up in completely different environments in the city; one raised by a single mum and the other as a single child to a wealthy couple. Set in the 1960s, the performance, uses song and dance to tell the story of their lives, their eventual meeting and ultimately their love for the same girl, Linda. This production is pivotal to the learning of the GCSE Drama students and proved a real hit with the students that experienced the show. Thank you, Mrs Crick!

Our talented singers took to the stage this week with Mr Longbottom as they performed alongside other vocalists from a number of Creative Education Trust schools. The event took place at Abbeyfield School and was reported to be an absolute showstopper, with The Bulwell Academy students performing brilliantly alongside their Trust peers. We look forward to many more opportunities being brought to life by our Arts Faculty throughout the year. Great work Mr Longbottom!

Finally, we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Bowers, CET Regional Director for Performance, and Mr Howard, CET Regional Director of Quality Assurance, to The Bulwell Academy for the first of many visits that will take place throughout the year. Both commented on just how smartly presented and well-behaved our students were. They were also suitably impressed with the learning environments that have been created by our talented teachers and support staff. *"I didn't see any disruption to learning in any of the classes that we visited"*. Brilliant feedback for a brilliant team of professionals and students, whose achievements wouldn't be possible without the overwhelming support that you are providing us. The Academy is going from strength to strength by the week. Thank you.

***Wishing you all a fantastic weekend.***