

Friday 17 December 2021



THE BULWELL ACADEMY

Principal's
Weekly
with Mr Nash



**A fantastic
end to
the term**



It is my last briefing of the year to parents after an extra-ordinary 12 months. We can look back on them with a great deal of pride. We have continued to make significant strides in our mission to further raise standards at The Bulwell Academy.

Our focus on disruption-free lessons is bearing fruit with strong academic progress being made by our students and the Year 11 examination results look very promising.

This has all been achieved against a backdrop of the pandemic and I just want to take a moment to thank students, parents, staff, governors, and Creative Education Trust for their support and the hard work that means we end the year in a much stronger position than when we started.

Of course, the latest variant brings with it more uncertainty but all we can do is remain focused on the best interests of our children.

The recent changes to the Government's guidelines have meant mask wearing has returned in corridors, classrooms and communal areas. Whilst it is of course not ideal, and at times uncomfortable, it is a small price to pay to keep staff and students in the Academy safe and whilst schools across the country have experienced massive disruption, we have worked hard as a team to keep the Academy open for business.

I would like to thank students for the way they have brilliantly responded to the wearing of masks or, where exempt, their lanyards. You've been a credit to each other, your families and yourselves. You are all doing your bit in the nation's efforts to slow down the infection rate and increase confidence in the Academy being as safe as it can be in these difficult times.

All students have been issued with lateral flow tests that they should use at home in line with Government guidance. They will help save Christmas and keep them and their families safe.



THE BULWELL ACADEMY

Return to School: January 2022



Back to
School



Staggered Return and Covid Testing

Finally, on the COVID front, I need to highlight again, [the letter sent home regarding a staggered start to the new term in January](#). This is to enable all students to be tested before they return to the classroom, as requested by the Department for Education. You will be aware the situation may change and, in the event further Government announcements over the holiday alter our plans, we will communicate with parents / carers via the website, social media and our communication systems as soon as we can.

Celebrations

We have been celebrating the festive period this week. The students looked terrific in their Christmas jumpers on Thursday and they all enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner. I joined teaching and support staff to serve the food and it was lovely to hear the positive feedback. Thank you to colleagues in the kitchen for your efforts.

Huge congratulations to Tinaya Wood after she emerged triumphant in the Trust's national sixth form public speaking competition. She impressed the judges – who included Chief Executive Marc Jordon and keynote speaker Mary Creagh MBE – with her oratory, which integrated the history of race relations.

Well done too, to the lucky winners in our 12 Days of Christmas attendance giveaway. We have given away an array of prizes for every day that we have been in school in December. It was also a Fantastic Friday today when we handed out certificates and two awards for each of the Academy's values (Aspire. Work hard. Be kind). Vouchers were also given to the top three in each year group in our student of the term awards. Our next Fantastic Friday is on 21 January – keep up the hard work.

Raising Expectations

It is important over the next two weeks to recharge batteries so we can raise the bar still further in the New Year, when we will be joined by eight new talented teachers and support staff. January will also see us continue to reinforce our [uniform policy, the subject of a recent letter home](#).

Year 11 Strive for Success Evening



Parent & Student Briefing

Thursday 6 January
6 to 7.30pm
including dinner

On the first Thursday back (6 January), COVID guidelines permitting, the Academy will be hosting a Strive for Success evening between 6pm and 7.30pm for all Year 11s and their parents / carers. The evening will provide valuable information on the different strategies we are putting in place to support students in their upcoming GCSEs and how we can work together to ensure they achieve their best. A hot dinner will be served at the end.

A week later (13 January), between 4pm and 7pm is the Year 11 parents' evening to discuss progress while period 6 master classes will start every Monday between 3pm and 4pm.

I am grateful to Assistant Principal Ms Senthilkumar and the team for their efforts in putting on these events for Year 11 and I look forward to them being well supported. [More details can be found here](#).

Finally, I would like to thank again parents / carers for their overwhelming support over the past 12 months and I would like to wish everybody associated with The Bulwell Academy a safe and enjoyable Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Wishing you all a restful festive break and a successful new year.