

4th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to all our students in Key Stage 3 as we start the second half of the Autumn term. We hope you and your family had a good break over the half term holiday and that our students are refreshed and ready to continue with their learning.

I would like to congratulate our students in KS3, as they have all settled in well. Transition is always a challenging time for young people and they have coped incredibly well with all the changes.

Thank you to all of you for ensuring that attendance at the Academy is a high priority. Despite some absences due to COVID and the normal illnesses that we are faced with, attendance in KS3 and throughout the Academy is very good. Staff will continue to work hard to support families regarding attendance when this is required, to ensure that our students can continue to learn and succeed.

We would like to welcome Jordann Jones to KS3 and into 3O's class. She will be on placement with us until Christmas, teaching the class along with Anna.

We have an exciting half term ahead including celebrating important festivals such as Diwali, which was yesterday, Interfaith week from the 14th – 21st November, Hanukkah from the 28th November – 6th December and Christmas celebrations from the 6th December.

With the shorter days and the darker nights, children begin to spend more and more time on electronic devices. We want to ensure their safety when accessing these devices. If you feel you would benefit from additional support, please access the 'Parents' Guide to Technology' so you can support your child to use these technologies safely.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology>

Please also find attached a 'Gaming safety' fact sheet to support your child online.

Clubs will commence week beginning Monday 8th November. Computer club will be on a Monday and Board Games Club on a Thursday. Both clubs currently have spaces available. We would encourage participation in these after school clubs so if your child would like to take part, please do let us know.

As we all know, KS3 can be a challenging time for teenagers. If at any time you need some additional support, behaviour related or anything else, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours faithfully



Nikki Glover - KS3 Phase Leader and Senior Teacher.

GAMING SAFETY

Follow these steps to stay safe online:

-  **Manage parental controls and access to paid games.**
-  **Make sure your privacy is protected, do not share personal information.**
-  **Create strong passwords and do not share them.**
-  **Avoid unnecessary payments and regularly check your credit card bills.**
-  **Report if you feel you are in danger of being exploited in any way.**