

Principal. Mr N. Lowry

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Co-op Academy  
Stoke-on-Trent

November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is one of the busiest times of the year for us and there are so many positive things going on every day.

### **Extra Curricular Activities**

We are pleased that our link with local partner Engage Communities is going so well. Engage are now offering three coaches every lunchtime for us and five coaches at the end of the academy day. This supplements our existing offer of extra-curricular activities which was already extensive. All activities that we offer are **free of charge**. Please encourage your son or daughter to join a club or come to an activity in order to take full advantage of the opportunities we have here. All of the activities are available to view on our website.

### **The Scholars Programme and Eton Applications**

Our high ability Scholars Programme recently gained a great deal of local press coverage, which you can read about [here](#). The programme provides an opportunity to enrich and challenge our highest ability students.

In addition, we had two of our Year 11 students shortlisted for a scholarship to the prestigious Eton College. We are very proud of both Todd and Lewis and you can read more about this in our newsletter.

### **2017 Leavers - Off to University!**

We had some great news this week as we found out that 44 of our 2017 Year 11 leavers have gone on to start university courses. This represents one third of the year group. It was really pleasing to see the students studying a range of courses such as law, English, history, biomedical science and even zoology. The number of our former students who are gaining entry to the elite Russell Group of universities is also increasing. We are very proud of all of our former students whatever path they have taken.

### **Mock Election - December 12th**

As we are all aware there is a general election on December 12th. We see democratic participation as a fundamental right and obligation in our society. In order to develop students' understanding of the democratic process we will be having our own mock election on December 12th. Please support this process by discussing the election and political issues with your son or daughter in the lead up to election day.

### **Parking**

Unfortunately we have had to issue reminders to parents and carers about inconsiderate parking around the time of afternoon pick up. Please can all parents and carers be considerate of our neighbours by parking legally and not blocking driveways, this is for the safety of both

your and others' children. Please do not arrange to pick up your child in a parking exclusion zone / double yellow lines or on the main Brownhills/Davenport Road.

## Parent Pay and the Academy App

A reminder that we are a cashless academy and that all meals and trips need to be paid for via ParentPay. If you have not already signed up you can do so [here](#). In addition we will now only send letters out via our Academy App. If you haven't downloaded the app you can do so [here](#). Please note that all parents' evenings appointments will be made via the app now.

## Holiday Requests

A reminder that parents and carers have a legal duty to ensure that their son or daughter attends school every day. We understand that illnesses happen and that sometimes events in life have to be dealt with. Unfortunately over the last six months we have had to direct the local authority to issue an increasing number of fines to parents and carers for prolonged absences from school. In particular this relates to holidays taken in term time. For any planned absence please inform the academy directly. The absence is only likely to be authorised if it is short and exceptional in nature.

## Jumpers and Cardigans

As the weather gets colder, many students are wearing cardigans and jumpers. Please can parents and carers be aware that the [uniform policy](#) states: *"Students may also wear a black plain V-neck cardigan or jumper, which must show the colour on the tie. There must be no visible logos on the jumper or cardigan."* If the jumper or cardigan does not fit this description it should not be worn in the academy.

## Upcoming dates for your diary

PSHE and Aspirations Day - December 5th

Christmas Jumper Day - December 11th

Panto "Robin Hood" - December 11th

Mock Election - December 12th

Activity day and final day of term - Thursday 19th December

A reminder that if you wish to speak to anyone at the academy, please contact either your son or daughter's form tutor or the year manager for that year, details of which are [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr N Lowry  
Principal