



Mr D Bell

MEA Principal & CEO of Altius Trust

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Dear Parent / Carer,

Many thanks for your support this half term. As always, the academy has been buzzing with a range of activities and opportunities for students. This week alone we have seen students graduate on the Scholars Programme with the Brilliant Club, celebrated the wealth of our diversity work as part of LGBT History Month, Lloyds mentors have worked with large numbers of Year 11 students, students have continued their Work Futures Programme with Wilmott Dixon, and the Duke of Edinburgh groups are preparing for their summer expeditions at bronze and silver levels. Never a dull moment!

Next half term, we welcome two important new members of staff to the senior leadership team. Ms Evans will join us to oversee our curriculum, standards and outcomes team, and Mr Benedict joins us to strengthen our work on the MEA Way ensuring students are safe, respectful and ready. In January, we welcomed Mr Fox. I'm sure you'll join me in welcoming these new staff members to MEA.

Thanks to all for your incredible support of Smart Time. These are the appointments between students and staff at the end of each day to resolve any issues which have occurred in lessons or indeed anywhere onsite. From after half term we will be adapting the format slightly. Students who pick up a Smart Time appointment will stay for a minimum of 30 minutes in year specific classrooms. After our 30-day trial, students and staff feel that the atmosphere in classrooms will be more conducive to these discussions and that 30 minutes is a fairer time to stay if learning time has been lost. If students fail to attend this meeting without a genuine reason, they will need to attend a 60-minute appointment the following day.

After the break, we will be having a push to ensure students continue to look fantastic as ambassadors for themselves and the academy by wearing the correct uniform. As a reminder, we expect all students to correctly wear at all times:

- Blazer.
- Tie.
- A tucked in, white shirt.
- Formal black trousers or pleated skirt.
- Formal shoes. Please note that footwear resembling trainers is not acceptable. The academy decides whether footwear resembles trainers, not students!
- No jumpers, hoodies or similar are to be worn under the blazer at any time.
- Outdoor clothing or coats are not to be worn inside the building once the school day starts.

We are often complimented on the way our students dress, and are keen to ensure these standards are maintained and enhanced. If your child does not have the correct clothing or footwear, please use the holiday to acquire it. Could I also remind everyone that we have a no jewellery rule in the



academy. Students are not allowed to wear earrings, nose-studs or similar, regardless of when the piercing has been done.

Coming up next half term:

- Rewards ceremonies will be held the first week back as we recognise students that demonstrate our values of safe, respectful and ready.
- From March 4th, our Year 11 Progress Exams start. These are the last Year 11 exams before the summer exam season begins and students need to be revising! To help students prepare, teachers are putting on additional revision sessions over the break. Students are urged to attend.
- We will be talking to Year 8 students about their options choices all half term. Students will make their choices before Easter. The Year 8 Parents' Evening on March 14th will be an opportunity for parents to ask about future courses.
- We will be closed for an INSET Day on March 15th to all students.
- The final day of term is Friday, April 5th.

Thank you for continuing to work with us to ensure a Fantastic Future For All.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Bell', with a stylized, flowing script.

D Bell
Principal