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Thursday 6th September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all of our students back for the new academic year. I am thrilled to say our Year 11s from last year achieved a fantastic set of results and we are incredibly proud of not just the qualifications they have achieved, but the people they have become.

Looking forward to this academic year, I am confident we can do even better and know that the staff will work hard throughout the year to give your child(ren) the best opportunities to achieve their potential.

We have made a number of improvements to our systems over the holiday, one of which is a new telephone number; please note the new number at the top of this letter. To further improve the food offer within school we have contracted our catering service out to an external company used by many schools called Caterlink. Students will see changes to the food that is on offer to ensure we are providing healthy, fulfilling meals that meet their needs. Some of these improvements include offering smaller food options so that a student entitled to free school meals can afford to eat something at both break and lunchtime. Central to these changes will be the student voice in shaping the offer, so I would encourage students to talk to their form leaders if they have any feedback.

To promote the work of the school and to ensure students have full access to the curriculum, you will receive a number of documents that need signing and returning to school as soon as possible. This includes the media and trip authorisation which are vital parts of our school ethos. In addition, we will ask you to check your data sheet as this ensures we have the right emergency contact details for you and a second contact. To meet GDPR regulations, we will not post your data sheet but will text you when they are handed to students so you know to expect it.

We have high standards at City Academy Birmingham as we believe these are vital to enable all students to be successful. We expect students to be in school every day and to ensure they are in school ready for line up at 8:30am. We are aware that the road works in central Birmingham are affecting some bus routes and whilst it is an inconvenience, it is essential students plan for this disruption; this may involve them getting an earlier bus. We have a 'no excuses' culture at school and an ethos of problem solving to overcome challenges so we know that students will cope with this challenge!

Open week

We are always keen to show off the excellent work of the school and welcome visits from parents/carers wishing to book an appointment at any time throughout the year. In addition, our official open week is Monday 24th – Friday 28th September. Our sessions are as follows:

Monday 24th – Friday 28th September: 9 – 10:30am (Please phone on 0121 729 7100 to book your place)

Thursday 27th September: 4:30 – 7pm

If these times are not suitable, please contact school to arrange an alternative.

Other key dates

Year 7 Parents' evening - Meet the tutor: Thursday 20th September 4 – 6:30pm

Parent Forum: Thursday 20th September 5 – 6pm

An opportunity to meet members of the Senior Leadership Team. All parents/carers are welcome to attend to find out more about the school or give feedback.

Term dates

Autumn 1 – Wednesday 5th September 2018 to Friday 26th October 2018

Half term - Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November 2018

Autumn 2 – Students return Monday 5th November 2018 to Friday 21st December 2018

Christmas Break – Monday 24th December 2018 to Friday 4th January 2018

Spring 1 – Students return Monday 7th January 2018 to Friday 15th February 2018

Half term – Monday 18th February 2018 to Friday 22nd February 2018

Spring 2 – Students return Monday 25th February 2018 to Friday 12th April 2018

Staff inset day Friday 15th March 2018 (School closed to students)

Easter Break – Monday 15th April to Friday 26th April 2018

Staff inset day Monday 29th April 2018 (School closed to students)

Summer 1 – Students return Tuesday 30th April 2018 to Friday 24th May 2018

Half term – Monday 27th May 2018 to Friday 31st May 2018

Summer 2 – Students return Monday 3rd June 2018 to Friday 19th July 2018

If you want to introduce yourself or have any queries I can be found most days on duty at the front of school at the end of the school day, but please do not hesitate to contact the school office (0121 729 7100) if you have any queries or concerns. Alternatively, you may contact my PA, Natalie Styles, at nstyles@city-birmingham.academy to book an appointment with myself. We aim to respond to all communication within 48 working hours.

Yours faithfully,



Miss Karen Slater
Headteacher