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Mr David Samson Headteacher

Academy

19 December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As the term ends, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. The first term in school is always a busy one. However, this term has been particularly busy, and we have much to celebrate.

As you know we had an Ofsted inspection a few weeks ago. I am not yet permitted to share the report, but I'm delighted to say that the inspectors were impressed with our students and the progress they are making. We are very proud of how our students are flourishing and we know they are working hard and getting involved in all the opportunities that are on offer. Please do take the time to read the inspection report when it is published in January as the inspectors were rightly impressed with our community.

Our term began on a high note as this summer our GCSE results were the best results we have achieved since 2016. In both attainment and progress, our students achieved scores above the regional averages, and it is testament to the exceptionally hard work that our students and staff put in. The same can be said for our bustling Sixth Form which continued to improve on previous progress scores.

Speaking of high notes, we have been particularly impressed with our new jazz quartet which some of you may have heard performing at the carol service this week. Special thanks also go to our orchestra for the background music and the school choir for their phenomenal performances at the Cathedral. In January we will begin preparations for the music festival and the summer musical.

In school we have welcomed a wide variety of visitors ranging from birds of prey to professional animators and we have been delighted with numbers of students participating in afterschool activities.

This term our sporting achievements have been celebrated on our school social media platforms, and we are very proud of our students' achievements in all areas of sport. Worthy of a special mention are our girls' football teams (U13 and U15) who reached the 4th round of the National Cup and our boys' football team (U18), who are currently unbeaten. In cross country and netball we have had similar successes representing Carlisle.

This week in school our year 11 students received their formal mock results. We have been delighted with the effort that they have put in and we hope that they come back from the Christmas holidays refreshed and ready for the spring term.

Attendance

You may be aware that we have historically been concerned about attendance and whilst we are delighted that our attendance is improving, we know that it could be even better. I know that you will understand the important link between attendance, good progress and success in school.

To put it simply, students with more than 90% attendance achieve, on average, a grade higher than similar students with less than 90% attendance. This can mean the difference between securing a place in Sixth Form, College or an apprenticeship.



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Next term

Our first day back after Christmas is Tuesday 7th January 2025. School will be open as usual at 8.30am.

I would like to wish you all a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope that everyone manages to have a relaxing time over the festive season. We are looking forward to returning in January to a New Year and a new term with refreshed enthusiasm and hope for the future

Yours sincerely

Mr David Samson **Headteacher**