



RJA

22nd September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Supporting your child through their GCSE's

It is with great pleasure that I welcome your child into their final GCSE year with the Academy. The GCSE examinations mark the culmination of many years of hard work and are a chance for students to demonstrate what they have achieved since beginning their journey in education.

I would like to take this opportunity to give you some important information about the year ahead for your child and outline some simple, but effective ways that you can support your child at home, helping them achieve their full potential.

Boost Sessions – starting Monday 28th September

We are offering small-group tuition sessions to all Y11 students. These will be aimed at closing any knowledge gaps from the extended period of Academy closure and are called Boost Sessions. They will take place from 3.20pm until 3.50pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

It is at this time of year that many parents and carers look for additional ways to support their young people to be successful in year 11. For many, private tuition is a consideration but, at costs in excess of £20 per hour, this option can become expensive. Just two sessions per week between now and the first summer exam could cost in excess of £400 and, whilst beneficial for students, this cost is simply not affordable for everyone. At Oasis Academy Brislington, we believe that every child should be entitled to every opportunity available. It is with this in mind that we are delighted to be able to offer your child four sessions of additional tuition each week at no cost to you. During these sessions, small groups of students will receive a targeted, exam focused skills session that has been tailored to enhance exam skills in the final run up to the exams. The sessions will be specifically designed to help students prepare and complete exam style questions in real time so that they build confidence and resilience ready for their final examinations.

Attendance

There are only approximately 26 Academy weeks until the final GCSE examinations begin. This means that every single day in the Academy and every single lesson is of utmost importance to your child's progress and success. We understand that some absences are unavoidable and would encourage parents / carers to follow the government advice where a suspected coronavirus case is concerned but we would urge all parents to support the Academy in ensuring your child's attendance is as high as possible through this year.

Further Academy Closures

As you may be aware some schools in South Bristol have had to shut due to an outbreak of coronavirus within their year group bubble. If this were to happen at Oasis Academy Brislington we intend for students to continue their timetable as normal, however the lessons will be accessed via 'live' streaming on Microsoft Teams. Unlike the last closure, we have decided to utilise technology available to us and will continue lessons virtually for every child.

Supporting your child

Parents have an important role to play in the success of their child, in terms of motivation and encouragement as well as being challenging and supportive. There are three simple, yet highly effective ways that you can support your child to be successful:

- 1) Ensure your child's attendance is high and they are in the Academy every day.
- 2) Ensure your child completes all of their homework each week and meets homework and coursework deadlines set by their teachers.

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- 3) Ask them how they intend to 'Go One More' each evening. All students have been set additional work enabling them to be as successful as they can be. They should all be doing one more activity e.g. 10 minutes on Seneca Learning each day to ensure they are ready for their GCSE exams.

Finally, we will be looking to host a virtual GCSE and Careers Evening in November. Through this session we will provide more detailed information about the examination period, revision expectations and helping your child apply for post-16 courses or apprenticeships. I therefore hope to welcome all parents / carers at this event. Thank you for taking your time to read this letter and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I am looking forward to supporting your child through the rest of this year and celebrating their success.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr James', written in a cursive style.

Mr James
Assistant Vice Principal: Raising Standards Leader