

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of a very busy and successful autumn term, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on life at the academy.

Despite the unprecedented difficulties this period has presented, our students have continued to show amazing levels of resilience, alongside their desire to work hard and improve. The pace and effort in school continues to improve on a daily basis. It is admirable how well our students are coping during these challenging and complex times.

The challenge of running a school in this pandemic has grown significantly as the term has progressed, this challenge has been matched by our resolve to ensure that we safeguard our young people in order to protect themselves and their families. Throughout this whole period, we have ensured that we have worked closely with Public Health England and Bradford Council to make the best decisions that support and protect our community. I am sure that you will all appreciate the thought and effort that goes into making every decision in school.

Regardless of the barriers Covid presents, the school continues on its improvement journey, with lots of positive events continuing to happen in school which showcase the academic aspirations and character development of our young people. Year 11 had a highly successful PPE examination period, and feedback from teachers is that the actions we took in the summer to address missed learning mean that students are still on track to be successful; they have also undertaken a number of employability skills sessions to begin preparing them for life after school. Year 9 took part in a Positive Choices day, which encouraged them to make the right choices and be safe in the community. Just this week, the First Story event showcased the work of a number of students who are already published writers. This is just a snapshot of some of the opportunities our students have taken this term to continue becoming the best version of themselves.

You will be aware from recent correspondence that we have recently allowed students to hold a non-uniform day. Many of you will be aware that we previously stopped non-uniform days and had informed students that these would only return when their engagement and attitude to learning improved. We are delighted to say that standards continue to rise and we are proud of the efforts of our young people and therefore we have given permission for a non-uniform event to be held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Earlier in this term we held a parental consultation meeting to discuss our proposed transfer into the Carlton Academy Trust. The consultation was an opportunity for parents to express any concerns about the proposed transfer. I am delighted to report that no such concerns were raised and that the consultation period has now finished and the transfer into the trust is progressing as expected.

The transfer into the Trust will enable the academy to rebrand and finally get rid of the legacy reputation of the previous two schools. Carlton Academy Trust via Carlton Bolling has been on a similar journey and is now graded as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and has also received the prestigious accolade of being given 'World Class' status. We truly believe that as our new school, Carlton Keighley, we will achieve a similar level of quality.

As part of our planning we are currently consulting about reducing the pupil admissions number for the academy. The rationale for this change is to ensure that we maintain the highest standards and can plan effectively for our journey to amazing. If you have any questions about this please see the school website for details.

Please find enclosed our term dates for the 2021/22 Academic year. Please note the earlier start point and the introduction of a two week break during the October half term period.

The national news has been full of reports of schools closing early for Christmas; the academy has taken the decision that our young people have lost enough learning time over the last year and we will be fully open up until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December to maximise learning opportunities for our students.

If you would like to receive support with food over the Christmas holidays the Local Authority has arranged support from local organisations. You can either go to [www.bradfordfoodbanks.org.uk](http://www.bradfordfoodbanks.org.uk) or contact one of the organisations below:

**Keighley Association for Women & Children Centre:** [nazkazmi@kawacc.org.uk](mailto:nazkazmi@kawacc.org.uk) Eastwood

Building, Marlborough Street, Keighley BD21 3HU

**Sangat Centre:** Riasat Ali (07539021647) [riasatali23@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:riasatali23@yahoo.co.uk) Sangat centre, Marlborough Street, Keighley, BD21 3HU

**Latitude Sports Coaching:** Paul Quinlan (07927 665664) [PQ@latitude.fitness](mailto:PQ@latitude.fitness) Keighley Cricket Club, Hard Ings Rd, Keighley BD21 3EX

**Highfield Community Association:** Fazeela Hanif (01535 608900 / 07928

206375) [Office.keighleyhca@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Office.keighleyhca@yahoo.co.uk) or [Playrangers.keighley@gmail.com](mailto:Playrangers.keighley@gmail.com) Highfield Community Centre, Drewry Road, Keighley, BD21 2QG

**Healthy Growth Initiative Ltd:** Rachael Neild (07946477717) [rachaelneild@gmail.com](mailto:rachaelneild@gmail.com) Hainworth Wood Community Centre, Hainworth Wood Road, Keighley BD21 5NG

**Keighley Parish:** Rev. Natasha Thomas (07887707221) [revnatasha@keighleyparish.org](mailto:revnatasha@keighleyparish.org)

**Community Cougars Foundation:** Saima Hussain (07980933224) [saimacommunitycougars@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:saimacommunitycougars@yahoo.co.uk)

**Windhill Community Cafe:** Karina Addy (01274588831) [Karina.addy@windhillcommunity.co.uk](mailto:Karina.addy@windhillcommunity.co.uk)

**Bradford Community Kitchen:** Abdul Satar or Anne-Marie Mitchell (07888693196 / 07834775200) [info@bck.org.uk](mailto:info@bck.org.uk)

**Save the Mother Trust:** Mohammad Shahid / Nadia Waheed (01274270043) [Info@smtrust.org.uk](mailto:Info@smtrust.org.uk)

Finally, I would like to thank the whole staff team at UAK. They have continued to offer high quality support and learning throughout this challenging period. The academy continues to reach new highs and I appreciate the effort and commitment from every member of the team.

I would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year and look forward to seeing you back on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

Take care and stay safe!

Jon Skurr  
Head of School