

WH/RNM/EOT/JUL18

19th July 2018

Dear Parent and Carers

### **REFLECTING ON THE LAST YEAR**

The last twelve months or more have been really important ones in the story of Boston Spa and our communities.

Despite the length of time that it took to achieve the academy order, we are pleased that the Governors' strategic plan has been endorsed at every level including that of the Minister. We were very blessed by the passion and commitment with which our community embraced the plan. The last few weeks have been a particular joy as I have been able to set aside the politics and politicians and to focus solely on our pupils and progress.

All the necessary legal process is progressing well, and we remain on target to be legally part of The GORSE Academies Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018. It will be over time that we come to appreciate the full significance of our 2018 achievements. We are excited about what next year will hold for Boston Spa Academy within TGAT, and in particular for the impact of the opening of [Elliott Hudson College at Boston Spa Academy](#).

### **COMMUNICATING WITH HOME**

We will be extending our use of the [Parent App](#) next year. In particular it will begin to replace some of our use of text messaging. In addition to its messaging capability the app provides access to the student's timetable, progress data and attendance.

Parents and carers who do not currently use the app will receive an email invitation with joining instructions over the next few days. We have written an easy [user guide](#) and if you have problems downloading the app please email Mr Hemstock at [hemstockj@bostonspa.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:hemstockj@bostonspa.leeds.sch.uk) for assistance.

The success of our electronic communication with home is dependent upon us using the correct email address. If you have changed yours, or think the one we are using is incorrect, please email [info@bostonspa.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:info@bostonspa.leeds.sch.uk) from your preferred address with the subject title 'New Contact Details'.

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 [@BostonSpaAcademy](https://twitter.com/BostonSpaAcademy)

## **ENTITLEMENT TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

We are well supported by Mrs Brown and her team in the quality of meals that she provides. I often get to eat in other schools and it is always a reminder of the high standard students experience at Boston Spa.

We would never, however, want a family to be paying for a school meal when they were, in fact, eligible for a free meal. The rules do keep changing, so if you think that you might now be able to claim a free school meal please check; there is a government [website](#) where you can find more information. You are not required to put any personal information onto this website. If you require support with an application for a free school meal, please contact Miss Morrell via Reception.

## **STAFF CHANGES**

Mr Delaney and Mr Bussey come to the end of their temporary contracts, and will move to other schools. Miss Smith leaves the English team to take up a post in a sixth form college in Doncaster, where the students will soon hold her in the same high esteem in which she has been held by our young people.

Mrs Moore, Mrs Courtman and Mrs Bringins retire from our support staff; all three have been valued and faithful colleagues with long years of commitment.

Mr Bringins retires as our Facilities Manager after an impeccable 23 years' service, notable for not one single day of absence due to sickness. His commitment was absolute, his work was tireless and his mind-set was selfless. He made Boston Spa Academy his life over the last 23 years, characterised by humility and a generosity of spirit. In addition to his duties he has, for ten years, contributed to the strategic direction of the school as a valued member of the Governing Body. Great schools have unsung heroes, and next week we bid farewell to one of the best. We wish Mr and Mrs Bringins every blessing in their retirement, as they plan to divide their time between family in Yorkshire and New Zealand.

We have recruited some excellent staff for September which I will formally introduce in the first Principal's blog of the new academic year. My last [letter](#) home, dated 13<sup>th</sup> July, outlined the staff changes in our pastoral team as well as highlighting adaptations in our Positive Discipline Policy.

## **KEY DATES FOR 2018/19**

We re-open for all students on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 8.45am. We will be operating the following dates for school holidays during the next academy year:

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| October half term    | Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November             |
| Christmas            | Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> December 2018 to Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2019   |
| February Half term   | Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2019 to Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2019 |
| Easter               | Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019 to Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2019        |
| Easter Bank Holidays | Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2019 to Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2019       |
| May Day Bank Holiday | Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2019  |
| May Half Term        | Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2019 to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2019           |
| Summer holiday       | The academy is closed from Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2019                 |

We will be closed for our staff training days on the following dates:

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September is our Open Evening, and school will close at 12.30pm. Sir John Townsley and I will be speaking at 6.00pm and again at 6.45pm. Please feel free to invite your friends and neighbours.

We have published a [calendar](#) for 2018/19 for parents and carers which, in addition to the information above, includes consultation evenings, trips and visits and examination windows. I hope you will find it useful.

### **AUGUST EXAMINATION RESULTS**

We look forward to celebrating the 2018 examination results. On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August Year 13 can collect theirs from 8.00am. Year 11 can collect their GCSE results from 9.00am on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Both will take place in the Sixth Form Work Area. Year 9 option and the Year 10 GCSE RE exam results will be posted home.

### **BUS SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER**

I would encourage you to ensure that you apply for boarding passes and bus passes at the earliest opportunity. Please do not leave it to the end of the school holiday. Metro's planning of our services and the routes is directly linked to the number of parents applying, so everyone applying early makes sure we have convenient routes for all our families. If you have not done so already please complete the necessary application on the [Generation M](#) website.

### **END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS**

We will close at 12.30 on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July. Buses will leave at 12.40. Students who are entitled to a free meal will be able to access one during first break.

Thank you once more for all your support for us during this last year. I hope that you and your family have a safe and restful break; we are very much looking forward to all that 2018/19 will bring.

Yours sincerely



CHRISTOPHER WALSH  
Principal