

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach a critical time in year 12 we would like to take the opportunity to update you regarding a number of key opportunities and events.

2015-16 has been a fantastic year for Post 16 at Balby Carr Community Academy. We have seen the creation of a new Sixth Form Centre and improvements in the quality of our ICT and sporting facilities. An increase in the depth and quality of enrichment opportunities along with continual improvements in attendance, progress and attainment. As a result we are very positive about the future.

We appreciate however, that success can only be achieved if we continue to work together to support our young people. Students are currently being asked to demonstrate the progress they have made in their AS level or BTEC studies through external examinations or through the completion of the units of work required to achieve a BTEC qualification. During the course of the year they should have developed effective work habits and acquired a routine of working independently at home. This is essential if they are to ensure that they develop the skills and knowledge required for success. They need to be continually reading around their subjects, revisiting topics for revision, completing the independent learning set and practising their exam and coursework techniques.

In 2016 the Government changed the way A levels are to be examined. As a result all qualifications will eventually move towards a two year model with examinations at the end of year 13, rather than separate qualifications for AS and A2. This has changed the approach of the Academy regarding the examination window and study leave. We have given all students the opportunity to sit an AS examination but for some this will not count towards their final grade at A2. It will however give the student, yourself and staff a clear indication about the progress made which will support the UCAS application process. This does however mean that **there will be no break from lessons/no study leave.**

Year 12 students will be expected to continue to attend lessons until 15th July. If a student would like to adjust their options i.e. pick up or drop a subject, they must make an appointment to see Miss Baxter. The recommendation however, would be to continue all options until their results are published at which time an informed decision can be made.

The last half term is also a very important time for the students as they begin to consider their pathway options for the end of year 13. The students will receive personalised support and access to numerous opportunities to discuss whether a university course, apprenticeship, scholarship, employment or the armed forces is the most suitable pathway for them.

Development Week

As part of this; year 12 students will take part in a **Development Day on the 20th June**. During this day students will take part in activities to highlight employability skills and hear from past students who have either had experience of university, apprenticeship, employment or the armed forces.

In addition to this they have the opportunity to **visit Hull University on Friday 24th June**. This will allow them to find out about student life, course options and student finance. This will strengthen their university application and so is **strongly recommended** to all considering this pathway. The coach will depart school at 8:15 and will leave Hull at 2pm with a view to being back at school just after 3pm. Students will be required to dress appropriately for the trip, being mindful that they are representing the school. The students will be given 45 minutes of free time during lunch to explore, however will need to bring either a packed lunch or money to purchase food at the university. **Please complete the attached consent form and return to Miss Baxter**. Anyone opting not to attend the visit will be expected to attend normal lessons.

Work experience

We appreciate how challenging it can be for students to decide on their chosen career pathway and so we have organised for Year 12 to participate in a week of **work experience** from the **27th June-1st July**. For any student looking at careers in education and health care this is essential for a university application but it is also vital that any student looking at university is able to demonstrate a passion for the subject or a particular career path and so this is also highly recommended. For those looking at employment or apprenticeship pathways this is also vital as, in a competitive market, students need to ensure they stand out and practical experience can make a significant difference to success.

Exam Results

As you are aware the GCE AS level examination results will be available from school on **Thursday 18th August** between **10:00am and 1:00pm**. Results will be available in the Sixth Form Centre and there will be refreshments available. If you have taken GCSEs the results for these will be given out on **Thursday 25th August**, between **10:00am-12.00pm**.

If you wish to have your exam results posted home then you need to provide Mrs Fielding / Miss Shaw with a stamped addressed envelope no later than **Friday 15th July**.

Advice sessions

When you have received your results you may want to talk to someone to discuss your future choices in Year 13. Staff will be available in school on Results Day so that you can make an appointment to speak to Miss Baxter or Miss Hodgson during the following times:

Thursday 18th August 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Thursday 25th August 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Careers information advice and guidance will also be available from the Independent Careers Advisor, John Jackson. Alternatively, you can access information from the careers service website, www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk

High Expectations – Attendance and Punctuality

Balby Carr Community Academy Sixth Form continues to have high expectations of all its students. The move to full time study has led to a significant improvement in our overall attendance and there are positive signs it has impacted on attainment and progress. As a result we will continue to insist that **all students attend from 8.30am until at least 2.40pm each day**. There have been some infringements of this expectation from a small minority of students, however, it is essential that students **arrive on time** and remain on site to complete the five hours of independent study for each subject expected each week. They also need to ensure that they are effectively contributing to the wider life of the school and undertaking work experience where appropriate.

Dress code

I would also like to take the opportunity to remind you that the dress code will remain in place for Post 16. As you make purchases over the summer please ensure that items comply;

- Smart black trousers (no studs)
- Smart black skirt with tights (female)
- Black shoes
- Collared shirt, short or long sleeved
- Blouse (female)
- Blazer / cardigan / jumper

Please note that the following items of clothing will not be appropriate:

- T Shirts / Polo shirts
- Any item with an offensive / socially or culturally inappropriate image or message
- Hats / fascinators
- Leggings
- Hoodies
- Jeans or denim of any kind
- Trainers or canvas shoes
- Or any item of clothing that is too revealing i.e. strappy tops

We are committed to creating the best possible climate for learning where each student can grow and progress to reach their full potential. We hope that we can count on your continued support as we continue our journey to developing an outstanding sixth form.

We wish you well for results day and look forward to seeing you in Year 13 in September.

If you have any queries please contact sixth form reception on 01302 313006.

Yours sincerely

Miss J Baxter

Assistant Head Post 16