Another busy term ends and we look forward to a well-earned rest; well for some maybe. This Easter I will be going with over fifty students and staff on the ski trip to Aosta Valley, Italy. Having never been skiing before like many of the children I am excited but also a little worried, especially how I am going to cope with cable cars and gondolas given my fear of heights!! Whilst some of us are skiing, another GSA trip is going to France and will, no doubt, make great memories for all. These residencies come after a long term of visits and events which have included Macbeth at the Grand Theatre, our very own sensational production of Sister Act, Swan Lake at the Hippodrome, sports visits, university aspiration raising visits and so much more. Thank you to all staff who really do understand that learning outside the classroom is essential if we are to prepare our fabulous students for life after GSA.

On Friday, I was a stand in last minute judged at the Battle of the N’OATs. This was a music competition organised by 6th Form students for students in OAT academies across the region. The acts were of an incredibly high standard and I just loved the fact that this event was organised by students for students. Needless to say it was a huge success; well done all!!!

Last week we hosted another PSHE Day and there was a real buzz around the academy as the students enjoyed learning in a different way and exploring themes that will equip them well in the future. As part of this day, we welcomed the University of Birmingham LGBTQ+ Association who worked with our Year 8 students on the themes of prejudice and tolerance. As an academy, we take seriously our role in raising of our common Fundamental British Values and, in particular, the Rule of Law. Hate language and prejudice must be tackled and this message came across loud and clear in a series of mature and challenging workshops.

This final week before Easter we welcome our year 10 students back to the academy after their work experience placements. I visited many of the students and was greeted with the usual complaint about how tiring the world of work is! More positively, I was thrilled to hear the very many positive stories of just how wonderful our Year 10 students were; words like mature, professional, caring and outstanding were common. I gather that some of our students have been offered part time jobs or future placements based on their performance. Well done to Year 10 you have been a credit to us!!

It is very important to us that we continue to strive for the best quality education for the young people who come to George Salter Academy. Therefore, this academic year, leaders across the Academy have been developing systems to enable all teachers to continue to improve their practice. We have designed a “Quality Development” system, whereby leaders systematically scrutinise the provision our pupils receive within their curriculum, as well as the standards of homework and feedback that their teachers give them. Rather than merely measuring the standard of our teaching, we routinely use this information to develop it. We recognise that all teachers, at whatever stage of their career, can always improve. With this in mind, our Assistant Principal for Teaching & Learning, Mrs Halford, introduced another “Hot Week”, where staff selected other teachers to go and observe in a “best lesson”, thus sharing best practice. Furthermore, we have recently formed a Teacher Learning Community, a group of staff who collaborate in sharing best practice and who are currently developing a new Teaching & Learning Framework for all teachers to use across the Academy. In this way, the standard of teaching at our Academy continues to improve.

Our house system has been relaunched this term and I have thoroughly enjoyed the very many quizzes and events, especially the staff quiz and cooking competition! As a reward for the high rates of participation in these activities, superb attendance figures and an incredible number of credits awarded we have decided to allow students to come to school on Thursday.
without a tie and in trainers if they so choose. Let me be clear; this is a one off day as a reward. Our very sensible uniform policy hasn’t changed of rover twelve months and, as usual, I thank all parents/ carers for ensuring that our children are incredibly smart in their school uniforms and black leather shoes. This is extremely important to us and I urge you not to indulge any request over Easter, such as the dying of hair or piercings, which will compromise our very high standards when we return.

The half term after Easter is incredibly short, our weeks, which means that the exams will soon be upon us. To all Year 13 and Year 11 students I wish you the very best of luck and urge you to make the most of the time left to not simply spend time devising revision programmes and organising files but to put the hard yards into intensive revision. We do have an intervention programme for Easter sessions and I am grateful to all staff who are giving their time so freely after school and during holidays to ensure our young people have the best chance of succeeding.

I will finish with a reminder that we break up for the Easter holidays on Thursday and hope that you have rest and a good break.

Thank you for your support. ‘Onwards and upwards’.

Adrian Price
Principal

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**Cashless Catering**

Last October we notified you that George Salter Academy was moving towards being a cashless school by 31 August 2019. From 1 September 2019 cash will no longer be accepted by the Finance Office for trips, school uniform, etc. We would also like to move to having all parents paying for school meals through our online payments system – ParentMail – a service which allows you to pay for school items on your smartphone, tablets or computer.

Using an online payment system makes collecting money for everyday items like school meals, trips, activities and uniforms easy, and reduces the need for students to bring cash into school - and you can be sure that your money is being spent on the right things! ParentMail’s online payment system is straightforward and easy to use. There is also a free mobile app for parents – available on Android and iOS – which lets you track and manage your child’s spending. In addition, there is a low balance notification to remind parents to top up, helping busy parents to stay on top of dinner money week in, week out. Registration is via a link in an email or SMS text message.

Please contact the academy on the main telephone number or alternatively email parentmailreg@georgesalter.com to request the link. Additional information and ‘frequently asked questions’ can be found in the Parents section of our website under Our Messaging and Online Payments System.

Anyone who registers between the 15th April and 16th July 2019 will be entered into a draw to receive one of 4 x £25 credit to your child’s cashless catering account. Winners will be contacted at the start of the Autumn Term. (NB: The credit is non-refundable). Remote payment points (revaluation machines) will still be available in school for cashless catering payments. If you have any queries about this process then please contact Mrs A Howe by emailing admin@georgesalter.com.

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**Important Dates for the Diary**

- **Thursday 2nd May** — Year 9 PE Trip to YMCA
- **Friday 3rd May** — Year 13 Business Studies Grade Booster Workshop
- **Monday 6th May** — Bank Holiday (academy closed)
- **Wednesday 8th May** — Year 10 Parents’ Evening
- **Thursday 9th May** — Year 9 trip to YMCA
- **Thursday 9th May** — Year 13 Dance trip to Warwick Arts Centre
- **Wednesday 15th May** — Year 7-12 Music Trip to Halesowen College
- **Wednesday 15th May** — Parent Forum (5pm) - all welcome to attend
- **Thursday 16th May** — Year 9 PE trip to YMCA
- **Monday 20th May** — Year 11 and 13 external exams begin
- **Thursday 23rd May** — Year 9 PE trip to YMCA
- **Thursday 23rd May** — Year 12 Food trip to Digbeth Dining Club, Birmingham
This Term in Review

Dynamic Youth Dance Platform

Chicane and Charge Dance Company performed at 'Dynamic Youth Dance Platform' run by Flexus Dance Collective on Sunday 3rd March. Students from years 7-13 performed alongside youth dance companies from University of Wolverhampton, Kidderminster College, St Peter's School and Flexus Dance Collective. Students were given excellent feedback from their peers and had the opportunity to watch a range of diverse and challenging pieces. A huge well done to both companies who performed Outstandingly!!!

A Volatile History of Chemistry

As part of the Aspire to Higher Education program our Year 9 and 10 students took part in 'A Volatile History of Chemistry', an interactive lecture provided by Wolverhampton Universities STEM Response team.

The demonstration took the students on a journey through time to explore the discoveries of some of history's most famous chemists. Through comedy, intellectual discussion, exciting, mind boggling and sometimes downright frightening demonstrations, the presenters showed the students how many of the fundamental laws of chemistry work and influence our everyday lives.

World Book Day, 7th March

GSA had a fantastic World Book Day!

Throughout the day students took part in a quote quest around school trying to find 20 famous lines from their favourite books. At break time the Librarian challenged students to see how many readers we could fit into the library at once, we ended up with an amazing 166 people all with a book in hand!

The teachers also got involved dressing up as famous book characters and doing some extreme reading in very random places.

We want to thank students for getting involved and look forward to the next World Book Day.

Athletics and Dodgeball success

The year 9 boys and girls Athletics took part in the indoor Athletics Championships last Thursday against all the Sandwell Schools. After some nail biting races the boys finished 2nd overall and the girls finished 3rd meaning both teams qualify for the Black Country Games finals next week. Another sporting success was the year 8 girls Dodgeball team who last night finished 2nd in the North Sandwell Schools competition and also progress onto the Black Country finals.

Well done to all who took part!

National School Breakfast Programme

We are proud to be a National School Breakfast Programme school. From Monday March 25 all students have been able to get a free breakfast in the academy canteen between 8 and 8.30 every day (Fridays 8 - 8.25). Students can eat in the canteen or take advantage of the range of breakfast clubs we offer. We are happy to offer a healthy breakfast to all our children and we would welcome your child to join us for a great start to the day. We offer: Porridge, breakfast cereal or a bagel.
Battle of the N'OATs

George Salter had the honour of hosting the final of the Battle of the N'OATs on Friday 5th April.

Well done to our fantastic sixth formers for organising such a fun filled event showcasing some amazing talent from the Shelfield, Forge, George Salter and New OAT Academies.

A great time was had by all, Congratulations to all the winners!

Village Africa Donation

Through the brilliant charity Village Africa, our P.E department recently donated some rugby tops that were no longer needed to the community of Yamba.

We are thrilled to see that they have arrived safely and are being put to good use already!

Thank you to all involved.

Splash the Teacher

Thanks to all students and staff involved in the end of term fundraising week in aid of Sandwell Young Carers. Activities included an Easter cupcake sale; a chocolate hamper raffle; an Easter egg hunt and the very popular ‘Splash the Teacher’.

At the time of writing the events are ongoing, but we will be sure to keep you updated with the amount raised!

To keep up to date with news from the academy, follow us on Facebook: https://facebook.com/georgesalteracademy