It has been a short half term but, yet again, we seem to have packed an awful lot in. Even before the half term began we had two superb trips take place over Easter. I know the French visit was a huge success and I know from first-hand experience how a cultural visit such as this can change lives. I wonder if any of our students on that visit will be inspired to go on and study French at university and then look to share that passion through teaching as I did myself.

The ski trip was life changing for me. As a beginner I got to learn with our students, experience pain, failure and frustration but an overwhelming sense of personal achievement. Mrs Hill led what was probably the best school trip I have ever been on, as a student or adult, and it was such a pleasure to spend time with our students who really are the very, very best! We had a great laugh particularly during some of the more painful moments which Mr Hayes always seemed to be on hand for and capture on video! Thank you for putting up with me and to my group in particular, I am sorry for taking you out on the slopes quite so often.

This week we started our GCSE and post 16 examinations in earnest and we all wish the students the very best of luck. Whilst we all know that this time of year can be very stressful it is important to put these worries in the context of a broader journey through education. I have to say that their preparation for and entry into the exams has been superb! A special thank you to Mr Sahota who has set up examination rooms, schedules and invigilators with clarity and rigour.

Throughout this short half term, I have met with a group of students from each year group, staff representatives form our Staff Forum and a number of parents at the recent Parents Forum. At each meeting I have followed the exact same format and completed matching activities on the theme of character education. It is my intention after this consultation to articulate quite clearly a mission statement for our wonderful academy, our revised school aims and the key values that we wish to share and develop in order to prepare our young people for life after education.

Our motto of ‘one world in one school’ will remain and stand proud as a statement for care and inclusivity which will continue to define the big family that is George Salter Academy. However, I am concerned that we take seriously our role for preparing young people for the tests of life rather than simply a life of tests. I have explored this with all groups, discussed which values will be needed to succeed in the modern world, how we develop them through our pastoral and academic offer and, most interestingly, what we do when these values conflict. Next year we will have a common set of values which are shared, understood and referred to throughout the pastoral and academic life of our academy. I will shortly be sharing a draft of this work on the school website and social media channels. Please do contact me at the academy with your thoughts on this project (principal@georgesalter.com).

Can I please remind you that we have a joint training day for all staff in all OAT WEST academies on the 1st July so school will not be open for students. Also, because of the building, as previously communicated, we are going to have to close the school three days early for the summer holidays to allow for classroom moves etc. The academy will close for the 2018/19 academic year on Tuesday 16th July 2019.
Finally, we have agreed our term and CPD dates for next year. Please see below.

Have a lovely May half term break and I look forward to seeing all students return safe and sound on Monday 3rd June.

Onwards and upwards.

Adrian Price
Principal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Training Days</th>
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<tr>
<td>AUTUMN 1</td>
<td>Monday 2nd September 2019 – Friday 25th October 2019</td>
<td>Monday 2 September 2019 Tuesday 3 September 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUTUMN 2</td>
<td>Monday 4th November 2019 - Friday 20th December 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPRING 1</td>
<td>Monday 6th January 2020 – Friday 14th February 2020</td>
<td>Monday 6th January 2020</td>
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<td>SPRING 2</td>
<td>Monday 24th February 2020 – Friday 3rd April 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUMMER 1</td>
<td>Monday 20th April 2020 – Friday 22nd May 2020 (May day bank holiday Monday May 4th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUMMER 2</td>
<td>Monday 1st June 2020 – Friday 17th July 2020</td>
<td>Monday 6th July 2020</td>
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**Important Dates for the Diary — Summer 2**

- Monday 3rd—Friday 14th June—Year 11 and 13 External Exams
- Monday 10th June—Year 10 trip to Loughborough University
- Thursday 13th June—Dance Youth Platform (6pm)
- Monday 17th—Friday 21st June—Year 10 and 12 Mock Exams
- Thursday 20th June—KS3 Camus Experience Day at Aston University
- Monday 24th—Wednesday 26th June—DofE Silver Practice Expedition
- Monday 24th June—Year 12 UCAS Convention at the NEC
- Wednesday 26th—PSHE Day
- Wednesday 26th June—Year 7 Parents’ Evening (5pm)
- Thursday 27th & Friday 28th June—Post 16 Musical ‘Chicago’ (6pm)
- Friday 28th June—Post 16 Induction
- Monday 1st July—TRAINING DAY
Tesco Bags of Help Voting

George Salter Academy is one of three groups on the shortlisted for Tesco’s Bags of Help initiative.

Our Initiative: Supporting Mental Health in School

At GSA, we aim to ensure a happy & successful life at school and beyond. We believe positive mental health is the first step towards that goal, in both our community and yours.

Voting is now open and customers will cast their vote using a token given to them at the check-out in store each time they shop.

The 3 stores that are participating are:

- West Bromwich Tesco Extra – B70 7PR
- Stone Cross Tesco Express – B71 3HS
- Great Barr Tesco Express – B43 5EL

Important Dates for the Diary—Summer 2 (Cont’d)

Tuesday 2nd—Thursday 4th July—Year 6 Transition Days
Friday 5th July—Sports Day
Monday 8th—Wednesday 10th July—Post 16 Taster Days
Monday 8th July—Year 7 & 9 Drayton Manor Trip
Tuesday 9th July—Year 8 & 10 Drayton Manor Trip
Tuesday 9th July—Year 7 English trip to Stratford
Wednesday 10th July—Dimensions Artsfest (5.30pm)
Monday 15th July—Extra-curricular Water World Trip
Monday 15th July—Post 16 Drayton Manor Trip
Tuesday 16th July—TERM ENDS
Thursday 18th—Sunday 21st July—DofE Gold Practice Expedition

Our Performing Arts Champions

We are proud to introduce our Performing Arts Champions!

These aptitude students have been working hard within music, dance and drama in order to become ambassadors for the facility.

Year 10 students now have purple and gold ties and year 7 & 8 students, badges to identify their achievement.

Well done everyone! We are proud to have you on The Excellence Within The Performing Arts Programme!