September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to, what promises to be, another action packed and fun filled school year. Thank you for your support in ensuring a smooth return to school for all. I am really impressed with the students’ uniform in particular, as they do look very smart. We have a very sensible uniform policy and your support in encouraging the students to respect it, is much appreciated.

Last year was a hugely successful year for George Salter Academy. I am so proud that so many of our Year 13 leavers have taken up wonderful offers from prestigious universities; I am convinced that one student will change the world after completing a degree in Politics with International Relations at London School of Economics and another is enrolled at the University of Birmingham Medical School. I am also really pleased that so many of our leavers have secured superb apprenticeships at national accountancy companies in Birmingham.

The GCSE results were absolutely fabulous; attainment and progress were well above the national averages. Two thirds of students achieved a grade 4 in both English and Maths and over one third achieved the gold standard of a grade 5 in both subjects. More than half of the exam entries sat achieved grades 5+ and over one third were grade 6+. Over 80% of all students achieved a grade 4+ in English!

There was, of course, lots more to celebrate. Attendance rates improved yet again and are extremely high; this has to be a sign that children feel safe and happy in our school. There were many performing arts events including the unforgettable Sister Act, sporting triumphs galore and visits both near and far (skiing in Italy for instance) which, when considered alongside our wonderful array of extra-curricular clubs, meant that GSA life was fast paced, varied and never dull!

A big thank you from me to the year 7 students who already seem to have found their feet at GSA. Immaculate uniform, polite manners, positive and sociable; they have set the right tone for the year so far. Long may it continue Year 7. I was so impressed that less than one hour after setting a challenge in my start of the year assembly a new Year 7 student found me to give me the answer – what an impression he has made!

My year group assemblies on the first day back, repeated one after the other, back to back, may have left me without a voice but were an absolute joy. I really enjoyed taking the time to welcome each year group back; the school and the summer have been ‘empty’ without them. Via some of my holiday snaps I talked to the students about the need to develop a passion for learning, never accept that: something is good enough and to embrace change. I also shared a personal goal which is to learn to play the guitar – something I intend to be able to do and perform before the end of the year. I wonder how many of the students and staff will now set a personal target of their own? Will you? If so, please share...

At GSA we are proud to be fully staffed by a team of specialist teachers. This year we welcome the following new
staff:
Miss Adams – Art & Design
Miss Akter – Psychology & Sociology
Miss Carolan – English
Miss Gaize – Head of Product Design
Mr Hearn – Head of Computer Science
Miss Majszak – RE
Mr Marsh – Maths
Miss Raven – Product Design
Miss Williams – History
Mr Zaman – Science
Ms Kakkad – Health & Social Care
Mrs Gascoyne – Modern Foreign Languages
Miss Coffey – English
Miss Leis – Geography & History
Miss Lundberg – Science

As some of you may have noticed, because of the South Staffs Water repair work, we are currently experiencing high volumes of traffic on roads around the academy. Can I please remind you to drive with due care and attention for the safety our students and to park with courtesy towards the needs of local residents?

As always, thank you for your continued support – ‘Onwards and Upwards’

[Signature]
Adrian Price
Principal