



Magna Academy

Poole

an Aspirations Academy

Principal: Ms N Ullah

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of our first half-term, I am writing to share with you some of the excellent learning experiences and opportunities students have taken part in already this year.

High Quality Learning

We are delighted with the excellent start that our students have made this half term; we have seen a strong work ethic and purposeful learning environments across the academy. It has been pleasing to see so many students using their Knowledge Organisers effectively to self-quiz, which is resulting in them being able to store this knowledge in their long-term memory. During the summer term, our teaching staff spent a considerable amount of time preparing and refining their course materials to be of the highest standard so that all students have access to an excellent education. It has been fantastic to see these resources being implemented in the classroom this half term and students rising to the challenge.

The science department in particular are pleased to be able to deliver practical lessons that they were previously unable to, due to covid restrictions. Highlights include; Year 7 students' excitement at learning to use a bunsen burner, Year 9 students enjoying learning how to use a microscope and Key Stage 4 students completing a radiation practical and testing the purity of water.

The recently established Theology and Ethics department are really proud of our students' positive response and active engagement within lessons so far. Students have enthusiastically participated in class discussions and debates on both theological and philosophical questions, displaying a high level of maturity and respect for other religions and cultures within their responses. Year 7 in particular have really impressed us with their thought provoking questions in lessons and willingness to share their own personal beliefs with their peers, which has in turn, helped them to celebrate and respect the diversity of our local community.

This half term has also seen the launch of 'Tassomai', as part of our homework strategy for Key Stage 3. We are looking forward to seeing the impact that this has on our students' learning and will update parents/carers in due course.

Learning outside the classroom and enrichment

The vast majority of students have taken up at least one of the numerous opportunities offered to them, before, during and after the academy day. Staff have really enjoyed building positive relationships, whilst enthusing and sharing their passions outside of the classroom.

In addition to our extensive enrichment programme, we have been able to organise and run a number of academy visits. Some of our Performing Arts students recently visited The Mayflower Theatre in Southampton to see 'Blood Brothers'. One student quoted "*overall the experience was awesome, I had a really good time watching the show*". Other opportunities included a 'Foodie Festival', visited by our Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students, giving them an opportunity to gain insight into the industry.

Year 13 Biology and Geography students carried out fieldwork at Studland Bay and Boscombe Beach, giving them practical experience to support their knowledge, which is an integral part of their course work.

We also hosted a 'Space Dome' day, an experience shared by all Year 8 students who have been studying Space as part of their ATL curriculum. I know some staff took advantage of this incredible experience too.

Enrichment will continue next half-term, with some added opportunities, for example a Music Appreciation Club, Film Studies Club and Climate Change Club. All students will have the opportunity to enrol during the first week back in November. Please take a look at our updated [Enrichment opportunities](#) on the academy website.

Competitions

It has been a very busy start to the competitions programme this half term. Well done and thank you to all students who have taken part in a house competition so far, especially those that have competed in extra-curricular/outside of academy hours. This includes the fortnightly Key Stage 3 Art Illustrations, MFL European Day of Languages Quiz, Royal Society of Biology Week, Magna Cook Off and MFL Calavera Design.

It was a particular highlight to see (and taste) the delicacies that our wonderful talented young chefs were able to produce in the Magna Cook Off. A huge thank you to Mrs Hall for providing a platform for our students to showcase their fine culinary skills and well done to all students who took part.

Looking ahead to the next half term, we have the 'Media Short Film Competition' taking place during the first week of November. All relevant details have already been posted on the 'House Competitions' Google Classroom page, which every student has access to. We also have the 'History Remembrance Day' and 'House Sport' competitions to look out for next half term, amongst many others.



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Behaviour, attitudes and attendance

I would like to thank you for your continued support ensuring that your child arrives at the academy on time, well-equipped and in full uniform. Since September improved preparedness of students has been evident and has had a positive impact on learning. As you may have heard in the media recently, the new Secretary of State for Education has made clear, young people regularly attending school is a national priority and is important for their education, wellbeing, and long-term development. Despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, I am pleased to inform you that our attendance remains strong, exceeding national averages. If your child is feeling a little 'under the weather' and does not have Covid related symptoms, they should make every effort to attend the academy. Attendance has been proven to have a positive impact on student outcomes.

Academy Meals

As you will know we have worked incredibly hard with our academy meal provider to improve the quality of meals offered. We are now proud to say that our meals are made from scratch, on site and are tasty, nutritious and cater for different dietary requirements.

Our Food Hall is now open for [Magna Breakfast Club](#) Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 08:25, offering a range of hot and cold breakfast options. Booking is not required. At break time we serve a variety of drinks and hot and cold snacks, including popcorn chicken, paninis, nachos, baguettes, fruit and cookies. Our [lunch time menu](#) gives students the opportunity to choose from a variety of hot and cold food, including a main meal deal at £2.30 and pasta pots from £1.00.

Please top up your child's [ParentPay](#) account if you wish them to purchase food and drink from the Food Hall. If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals please apply to BCP Council by completing their [application form](#).

Update on the new Performing Arts Studio refurbishment

Over the last 2 weeks, students will have seen a lot of commotion and noise coming from the old Drama Hall. Already we have our new sound and lighting systems installed. Miss Bennett, Mrs Giles and Mrs Saxby are thrilled to announce that this new technology has already transformed the space in such a short time frame and thoroughly enjoyed setting some presets, particularly to use in class time to enhance the existing learning within lessons. Work to complete the project will continue into the next half-term.

Community

The Parents Forum allows parents and carers to work closely with the academy, to ensure the success and wellbeing of our students. The forum met in September to discuss homework across the academy. Please read the notes from the [discussion here](#).



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Over the last few weeks we have welcomed some external visitors and prospective parents to the academy. Counsellor Nicola Green was one of our visitors and she commented on the positive and productive atmosphere she experienced around the academy. In addition we were delighted to receive such lovely feedback following our Open Evenings. I have shared just a selection of this feedback with you below;

- I just wanted to thank everyone for the amazing experience my family had at the open evening yesterday. It was a true pleasure right from the start.
- Our two tour guides were simply the best tour guides I've ever had for any open evening, at any school, for any year for any of my children.
- My daughter and I have viewed numerous schools throughout the week and have been shown a lot of empty classrooms filled with text books. Last night we were greeted with such friendly and approachable teachers and pupils, pizza making, keyring making, fascinating science experiments to name a few. Thank you.

This half term break will undoubtedly bring opportunities for your children to spend time with their friends, however with the dark evenings approaching I hope you are able to have quality family time at home together too. For those children that will be taking part in Halloween activities I would encourage families to discuss the best ways to stay safe prior to the event. Hopefully this will enable them to have a great time whilst staying safe and considering other members of the community too.

Yours sincerely



Ms N Ullah
Principal