



Magna Academy

Poole

an Aspirations Academy

Principal: Ms N Ullah

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@MagnaAcademy

4th March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

This is an incredibly busy and important time in the academic year. Years 11 and 13 are currently sitting their second set of mock examinations, in preparation for the public examinations in May. Year 12 are working towards the successful completion of their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), creating academic artefacts and essays at undergraduate level.

Year 10 has just had a successful parents evening, allowing conversation about academic progress, attitude to learning and application of knowledge to flourish. Many students continue to prepare for formal exams in different subject areas, showing increased maturity and work ethic. It has also been great to see Year 10's getting involved in enrichment activities, notably in Basketball where we had a memorable win against a local school.

Year 9 will shortly begin their Options process and parents/carers will receive an introductory letter at the start of next week, outlining the timeline of events.

Years 7 and 8 continue to impress us on a daily basis. Their enthusiasm for learning and enrichment is infectious. Recent assessment outcomes have enabled us to celebrate their successes and set early interventions for students in support, which they have responded incredibly well to.

Despite this, we have continued to develop both the enrichment offer and opportunities for student leadership within the academy. Many enrichment clubs have become more popular through word of mouth and relationships continue to develop between peer groups and staff. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme has started, with students organising a skill based task, as well as researching many voluntary activities. Miss Stannard is enjoying working with her core group of boxers that attend early sessions every Friday, before the academy day also.

We are very excited about our upcoming drama production Matilda Jr. As the show draws closer, the cast, technical crew and staff are auditioning regularly. Earlier this week, when the rain finally stopped, the technical crew were put to work painting the set outside. It has been lovely to see the students take a blank canvas and get creative. We would like to thank some members of our community who have spent time constructing the movable set that will be used for Matilda Jr. and future performances. Keep an eye out for when tickets go on sale, I had a sneak preview and you won't be disappointed.

Staff changes

Sadly, Mrs Rodgers (Assistant Principal Sixth Form) will be leaving us at Easter. She definitely does not want to leave us but must put her children first and has had to relocate to Berkshire, due to a change in her personal circumstances. She will be taking up the post of Head of Ebacc at Kings International College. I am sure you will join us in wishing her the best of luck. In order to ensure the Sixth Form continues to grow and develop we have successfully appointed an exceptional teacher and leader, Mrs Biddle, who will join us after Easter. You are able to find out more about her [here](#).

As you may have seen on social media we have been trying to recruit an additional Science teacher. There is a national shortage of teachers within this subject area and I am keen to recruit the very best teachers and chose to re-advertise rather than appoint any of the candidates earlier in the year. I will update you once we have made a successful appointment.

We are delighted to have Mrs Cook and Mrs Gibbard returning from maternity leave after the Easter break. I am sure our students will be very pleased to have them back in the classroom and leading their respective areas again.

Staff turnover at Magna remains low and where there has been movement over the last two years, this has been down to individual's personal circumstances or excellent promotions out of the area.

Parent Survey

Thank you to those parents/carers that completed the survey last month. We were very pleased with the overwhelming support from our community. It was heartening to read such positive feedback and I will ensure this is shared with the staff, who have gone above and beyond, particularly over the last two years. Strengths highlighted by parents were around pastoral care, high quality teaching, raising attainment sessions and SEND provision.

More importantly though, we have really valued the candour and constructive comments provided by parents/carers. One key theme that I am keen to work on with parents and carers is streamlining and improving communications between the academy and home. The Parents Forum have already started some work on this but I would appreciate the input of a wider group of parents and carers for this piece of work. In particular it would be useful to have input from any parents/carers with a background within communications, marketing and customer service. Of course all input would be appreciated. Therefore please can parents interested in working with us email Mrs Dodd, cdodd@magna-aspirations.org, directly outlining their willingness to get involved and highlight expertise where appropriate.

We will be in contact with all respondents who left a name and contact number during the survey period over the next few weeks, to talk through their feedback.



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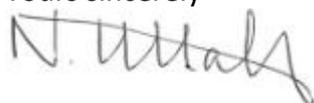
Covid Update

Following the government's announcement of their Living with COVID-19 strategy, which came into effect on Thursday 24th February, we have received updated guidance for schools from the Department for Education. As we have done throughout the pandemic, we continue to follow the DfE guidance and the key updates from this guidance are summarised below;

- Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended.
- Face coverings are no longer advised for students, staff and visitors in classrooms and communal areas (they are permitted should anyone wish to wear them within Magna).
- Students and staff are no longer required to carry out twice weekly lateral flow tests.
- If students have symptoms of Covid (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell) they should take a PCR test and should remain at home whilst awaiting the test result.
- Students who have tested positive for Covid (LFD or PCR) should not attend the academy while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms), followed by another one the next day. If both of these test results are negative, they should return to the academy, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.

The academy is no longer being issued with lateral flow test kits to distribute to students. Please order test kits online [here](#).

Yours sincerely



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