

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are well and had a good summer. A particular welcome to new parents and I look forward to meeting you over the year.

The term has started and students are as busy as ever. The year ahead is full of activities both in BOA, at The Old Rep and with our creative industry partners. Please check the website as we are constantly updating it as events and opportunities arise. All parents should have received a calendar. This contains all the key term dates and parent's evenings. If you did not receive one, please ensure your child collects one from their form tutor.

We were delighted with our August results. This was our fourth set of Post-16 results and third set of GCSE results. Our results have always been good and year on year they have improved. These are the best ever. Post-16 average point score per student was 856, the equivalent of A\*AA, and our KS4 results were 88% A\*-C in English, 82% in Maths and 80% in Science. In 2015, we were the top performing 14-19 school in the UK, I hope we have retained that for 2016. These results also put us in the top 10% of schools in Birmingham. Well done to students and staff for all their hard work.

The idea for BOA was conceived in 2006. We finally opened our doors on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011. Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October this year will be our fifth birthday. Much has happened since then and BOA has rapidly gained a reputation as a centre of excellence for the arts.

Unfortunately, much has changed in the world, not always for the better. The plans the architects and planner designed in 2006 are not sufficiently secure for 2016. I have finally received planning permission to erect a perimeter fence. To reflect the nature of our Academy it will be a piece of 'public art' and the fence is being designed by our Year 13 Art students, alongside artist Tim Tolkien.

Also for security reasons, BOA's Reception will be changing. Currently, every student is electronically registered in every lesson however students often arrive early or stay late to work independently. We need to know when students enter and exit the building. In light of this, a new 'swipe' system has been installed in the Atrium. Students current lanyards will be used. The system is being rolled out now and will be fully functional by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September. **It is a mandatory requirement that all students swipe in and out of the building.** As you can appreciate, all of these measures are to keep our young people safe.

Please note Mr Dean's letter (enclosed) about giving your child permission to work independently after school. One of our strengths is the fact our students take responsibility for their learning and BOA can often be a very vibrant place well after school hours. There is always a strong presence of staff in the building but not necessarily in the room the student is using. I have to say in the five years BOA has been open, students have been

nothing but respectful of the building and equipment and have certainly conducted themselves well. BOA stays open until 8pm so our students can take responsibility for their own learning and become responsible, independent, creative young people.

Please note all visitors will be photographed on entry to BOA.

All students have had an assembly about the safest routes to follow to and from school (these routes are also in their planner). We strongly encourage students not to cut through the park but to keep to the main roads as directed. This is particularly important as the nights are drawing in. Dance students must get changed and refrain from walking from BOA in their leotards.

Year 10 settling in evening is Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

Year 11 information evening is Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Year 12 settling in evening is Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November.

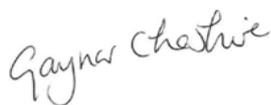
Our Open Week is Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October. Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> is an evening for prospective Year 10 students and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> is for prospective Year 12 students. I thank you in advance as many students will be involved, especially on the Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

BOA has a strong system of pastoral care. Mr Pitt is the Assistant Principal with responsibility for pastoral care, supported by the Senior Head of House; Mr Kennedy. Our six Heads of House are all based in the same pastoral office with the Attendance Officer, Rosie Price, and the Pastoral Manager, Theresa Janssen. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Finally, in June 2015 BOA was invited to open a new school. We aim to do this in September 2018. The new Academy; BOA Digital will be an 11-18 school, based half a mile from BOA in Digbeth, specialising in new digital technologies. Please go to [www.boa-digital.co.uk](http://www.boa-digital.co.uk) to look at the details and we would appreciate your comments about our new venture.

Here's to a really successful and happy 2016/17 academic year.

Yours sincerely



**Gaynor Cheshire**  
Principal