



27th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I trust this letter finds you well and you are looking forward to the October half term break. For both staff and students this has been an enjoyable period as we have welcomed our new Year 7 students and seen the growth in maturity of Year 11 students in particular. It is wonderful to reflect on everything our community has achieved and enjoyed in just a few weeks. I am delighted to announce the incredible 14,000 Class Charts positive points that have been awarded to our “Rockstars” for aspects such as excellence in the classroom. I continue to urge all parents to access Class Charts to monitor progress of your child.

We have been very pleased to have the support of a range of external partners including “Football Beyond Borders” and “Free 2 Dream”, who are dedicated to improving education provision for young people in our community. It has also been a real highlight of the term to have continued to develop our STEM provision which many parents will see the benefit of as you embrace our STEM kits, which are already on the way home for half term fun! It is important for me to also recognise our two junior scholars who have been accepted onto the Junior Genius Scholars programme.

I have written to you before about the worrying spate of violence in Alum Rock and Birmingham area. We continue to work hard in school to educate our young people about how to stay safe, and the dangers of carrying weapons or acting in a violent way. While incidents of this kind are thankfully rare, we will continue to conduct searches where necessary and anyone found to be in a possession of a weapon will be reported to the Police immediately. Your co-operation in reinforcing this message at home is very much appreciated. I have been delighted with the maturity of our students and I remind all parents that Rockwood Academy is a safe space where our children learn safely knowing that they are able to express their opinions and learn from others.

Good behaviour is of paramount important to us, and all students must adhere to our Code of Conduct: Ready, Respectful and Safe. One aspect of our Behaviour Policy, which we are paying close attention to in school at the moment, is punctuality to school and to lessons. **School starts at 8.35am** and any student who is late faces a one-hour sanction. Please support us in ensuring your child arrives at school on time and is reminded about lesson punctuality. As a guide we suggest that your child is here at the Academy by 8:30am.

We also want to ensure students are coming into school with the right equipment including wearing correct uniform, bringing the right equipment for lessons and wearing the correct PE kit. You can find details of our uniform policy on our website. We appreciate the difficulties some families are experiencing at the moment, and we can provide help where needed, so please do get in touch. Details of our uniform policy is found here: [Uniform & Equipment - Rockwood Academy \(corerockwood.academy\)](https://www.corerockwood.academy/uniform-and-equipment)

Where students demonstrate and exceed our values, we are delighted to reward them. Our “Rockwood Stars” rewards initiative has been in place during the half term, and it is wonderful to see so many students who have already reserved a reward from our rewards shop! This programme includes star badges that celebrate subject excellence and opportunities for star students to access a range of prizes from our rewards shop. One award that I am particularly keen to promote is the 100% attendance award – please can all parents remind their children that we aim for 100% attendance throughout the year.

When we return after the break, our older students will continue to prepare for their GCSE examinations. Our experienced team will support them throughout the process, and I have been delighted to see our students already accessing catch up revision sessions – very well done!

A reminder that **school returns on Monday 6th November 2023 at 8.35am.**

Until then, I wish you a very restful break.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Cooke', with a small dot at the end.

David Cooke
Head of School