

Our ref: ljm/KDV/Correspondence

14 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Re: Parental Update**

As we approach the final part of the academic year and get ready to say a final goodbye to our Year 11 and 13 students, I thought it worth contacting you all with some key information that you may find useful.

### **Academy**

I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that at the start of this month, The City of Leicester College formally closed as a Local Authority School and reopened as an Academy. This has been something in motion since before my time as Head Teacher but was paused during the pandemic. You will have noticed at the start of the year the new signage and email addresses as we awaited the conversion to be signed off by the DfE. We are now officially part of the Aspire Learning Partnership along with Soar Valley College.

In the last three years we have improved all aspects of the school for example we were in the top three co-educational (boys and girls) schools in the city in terms of exam results; in the top 10% nationally for results in subjects such as Science and Maths; were well into the top 20% of schools nationally for our overall exam results; were significantly above national averages for student attendance; have ensured the school is in the best financial position it has been in the last ten years, etc. As such we wanted to ensure that we joined a trust where that success would be recognised but would also allow us to shape the direction of the trust on our own terms. With the Aspire Learning Partnership being new and having a very strong existing relationship with Soar Valley College, we felt that they would be a great fit for us and help us move even further towards our goal of a school that is "Ambitious for All". Students, parents and staff will therefore notice no sudden changes, but we are hopeful that our improvements will continue apace.

### **Last Day of Term**

As always, we will finish the year with a half day which is a tradition that is really appreciated by our students. Our final day of the year is Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and students will leave at the end of period three at 12:25pm.

### **Term Dates 2023/24**

We will largely be following the Local Authority term dates so that those with children at different schools in the city will not be inconvenienced too much. However, the local authority has given schools the freedom to choose two further holiday days and one staff training day. Due to Leicester schools going back earlier after the summer than other places, the second half term is very long and is where students often find themselves struggling with illness and tiredness. For that reason, we have chosen to close to students on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to give them a chance to have a mini school holiday and hopefully refresh themselves before the final four weeks before we break for the Christmas holidays. The term dates can be found here on our website: <https://www.cityleicester.co.uk/home/about-the-college/term-and-diary-dates/term-dates-202324/>. These are still subject to change we will contact you if the dates are amended.

### **Drop-off and Collection of Students**

I also wanted to remind all parents who drop and collect children to be as respectful as possible to the local residents. As you will know, with three schools so close to each other it is very difficult to manage the traffic if students are picked up directly outside school and I would encourage you to drop-off and pick your children up from slightly further away to ensure you can avoid the worst of the traffic and the local residents can get in and out of their properties. I have been having meetings with the local councillors and police to try to improve the traffic situation and improve the school transport offer, but this will not be a quick process. Due to this process, I wanted to inform you, so it doesn't come as a surprise, that you may see parking officers in attendance.

### **Farewell**

I know the year is not yet officially over and there is plenty of work to do in the next four and a half weeks but overall this has been another very successful year. To those parents for whom this may be the final letter you receive from me, I want to thank you for all the support you have given to your child and to the school in the time your child has been with us. The student's taking exams this summer have been exceptional in the way that they have approached their exams and I have no doubt the results days will be full of smiling children and happy adults. I know that through our work together your child will also have the character they need to make the most of the opportunities these great results will offer them, and I look forward to seeing them in years to come as successful young adults. For those parents who will remain part of our wonderful community next year, I look forward to working with you all again to help your child to develop and grow.

Kind regards,

**Mr. K Vernon**  
**Head Teacher**