

## Dear Parents/Carers

Just as we thought spring had arrived suddenly, this week, we have been thrown back into the coldest of winters again! It is vital that we keep our students safe, which means treading the fine line between keeping the Academy open for the students to continue learning and closing it when the site becomes dangerous to access. Please bear with us as we make decisions over the next few weeks as the current forecast is suggesting the bitterly cold weather will stay for a while yet.

On 1st March we received the names of over 140 students who will be joining us as our new Year 7 this coming September. This is wonderful news for the Academy, as it means we return to having five classes in Year 7, putting us back to full capacity. I would like to thank all of the parents and carers for their support in spreading the word amongst the local community that All Saints Academy is on the way up!

Enjoy the snow, keep warm and safe!

**Liz Furber**  
Principal

## Dear Parents/Carers

I doubt there is anyone who wasn't saddened by the horrific school shooting in Miami recently. The ages of the fourteen students who were killed ranged from 14 to 18, so the equivalent of our Years 9 to 13. Three teachers were also killed. I emphasise the ages because these are people with whom we can readily associate.

President Trump's response has been to propose arming teachers on the basis that "a 'gun-free' school is a magnet for bad people"! He went on to say 'if a potential "sicko shooter" knows that a school has a large number of very weapons talented teachers (and others) who will be instantly shooting, the sicko will NEVER attack that school'.

Make of that what you will, I'm just glad that our students attend All Saints without the fear of such incidents and that our 'talented teachers (and others)' are there to support the learning of our students, making sure that they are prepared for life beyond school, an opportunity that sadly wasn't afforded to the fourteen students of Marjory Douglas Stoneman High School.

**David Fraser**  
Chair of Governors

~COMING SOON~

## Arabian Nights

Wednesday 21st March  
and Thursday 22nd March

~NEXT WEEK~

## Year 9 Parents/Carers' Evening

Tuesday 6th March 2018

Book your appointments  
online—see website for link  
and more information

### **New Common Room**

The new Common Room has given a better chance for Year 12 and Year 13 to communicate. Many friendships have formed between the two year groups, along with the odd pool match between the students. Along with the pool table, the new sofa areas have given more opportunities to socialise and even complete group work. The tea and coffee facilities are popular and people are being respectful to each other when using these. A quieter study room means that work can be completed with less distractions and higher amounts of work achieved. The new common room was a great addition to the Sixth Form!

**Arron Barry**  
Head Boy (Sixth Form)

### **UCAS Update**

Year 13 students are making difficult decisions this term to select their preferred university offer. Examples of where our students are hoping to study are detailed below:

**University of Derby**

BSc (Hons) Child and Family Health and Wellbeing

**University of Westminster**

BA (Hons) Fashion Buying Management

**University of Liverpool**

Law LLB (Hons)

**Brunel University London**

BSc Psychology

Students have a set entry requirement for their chosen course and we wish students the best of luck with their final examinations next term.

### **'Project 5' Target Group – Maths Outcomes.**

Fifteen Year 11 students have again been working intensively with our partners 'Twenty Twenty Learning' in the second set of 'Project 5' subject specific GCSE workshops. We are pleased to be able to feed back that this was another very successful intensive five day workshop, with a set of very pleasing outcomes. Headline figures were as follows:

- 85% of students moved up a grade
- 61% of students moved from Grade 3 to Grade 4
- the average raw score increased by 38%
- There was a 0.8 grade improvement in the mean grade

Congratulations to the Year 11 students who were involved. We hope that this intensive support contributes to fantastic outcomes for you all in the summer.

**Andrew O'Rourke**  
Assistant Principal

### **Extended Project Qualification**

Congratulations to our Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) students in the Sixth Form who have spent the last six months devising their own projects on a range of topics. Some of the chosen research areas have included the change in theme parks over time, female objectification, IVF funding and the psychology of crimes committed. Students have developed skills including referencing, time management, primary researching and evaluating; all essential skills for higher education at university and for future careers. In the last few weeks, students have been presenting their projects to a group of peers and discussing the journey of their work from September to February. Their final projects are due by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 and I'm sure the students will enjoy the extra time on their timetables to study for upcoming examinations.

**Charlie Bellwood**  
Head of Sixth Form

### Reading at Beecroft

As part of our Transition Programme, we have been working with a number of primary schools in the local area. At Beecroft Academy, we have been supporting literacy development and our amazing team of Literacy Mentors have been coaching young readers each week as their Elective activity. We are expanding this programme to a number of other Primary schools in the coming weeks and would be really interested in hearing from other Year 10 and Sixth Form students who would be interested in supporting young readers.



### World Book Day

World Book Day is Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March this year and all our curriculum areas have planned their costumes and are getting into the spirit of a day devoted to literacy. Themes chosen are:-

<b>English</b>	Charles Dickens
<b>Maths</b>	Marvel heroes
<b>Science</b>	Kay Scarpetta books
<b>SHL</b>	Dennis the Menace
<b>Humanities</b>	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
<b>C&amp;D</b>	Peter Pan

There will be an opportunity to read in every lesson and all students will receive a World Book Day token to help them buy a book of their choice.

**Kate Searle**  
Assistant Principal

### Handwriting Intervention

Parents and Carers often tell us that they are concerned about the quality of their child's handwriting and they worry that this may be a problem for lessons and exams. We have recently identified some groups of students who would benefit from some hand-writing support and work has already started to make sure that improvement takes place.

One of the strategies we are using is experimentation with different types of pen to see what the impact is on the quality of hand-writing. We will review a number of pens and report back in our next newsletter.

**Alison Spicer and Miles Walbank**

### Year 8 Learning 2 Learn

Last half term Year 8 L2L classes explored areas of collaborative learning and enterprise. Students created their own business logos, titles and marketing plans as a group in order to promote a retail product. Students were challenged to work with those who they may not normally choose and explored their resilience, teamwork and leadership skills through the range of activities. The groups finished off their studies by creating a business pitch in a "Dragon's Den" style to establish how much money an investor would provide them with to create their products. This half term, students in Year 8 have progressed on to critical thinking skills and challenging perceptions. It has been an exciting start, exploring how areas of the brain understand things that we see and hear.

**Charlie Bellwood**  
Head of Sixth Form

### **Attendance Matters**

Earlier this year, we set aspirational attendance targets with all students and challenged them to meet these during the course of the year. All targets were set to bring students closer to our Academy target of 96%. We are delighted to report that 47% of students have improved their attendance since their targets were set and 20% of students have already achieved their challenging and aspirational targets. We are now reviewing the targets in form time and will set new targets to help everyone improve further. As a result of this focus on attendance, the whole Academy's attendance has improved by 0.6% when compared to the same period last year. Students who have achieved their attendance targets will receive 10 House Points and students who have made positive progress will receive 5 House Points.

In March, we are introducing a weekly **Attendance Lottery**. Each week one name will be drawn at random and, if that student has 100% attendance, they will win the weekly prize of a £5 "Love2shop" voucher. If the student drawn does not have 100% attendance, the Lottery will be rolled over and the prize for the following week will be £10 and so on. We hope that this small reward system will help to keep all of our students focused on the importance of outstanding attendance to support outstanding achievement. Finally, we have created a new leaflet to explain our attendance procedures and to give support to families where attendance may be an issue. This will be sent out with all Attendance "trigger" letters from 1st March onwards. A copy will also be on our website and we would encourage all parents/carers to read this as it sets out the expectation of attendance for all students.

Attendance Lottery starts 5th March—you have to be in to win!

**Robbie Swain**  
Attendance Officer

### **Careers Education at All Saints**

We are very proud of our Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance programme which is led by Mrs Ojulah, who has recently achieved her Level 4 Qualification in Careers Advice. We have also completed a benchmarking exercise which tells us that we are ranked second in Bedfordshire and Central Bedfordshire for the quality of our CEIAG provision. Needless to say, we will be chasing the remaining 3.4 points over the next months to ensure we provide a top quality experience. Careers appointments can be requested by emailing [Jo-AnneOjulah@allsaintsacademydunstable.org](mailto:Jo-AnneOjulah@allsaintsacademydunstable.org)

### **Parental Engagement**

From September, we have been focusing on improving how we welcome you as parents and carers at Parents' Evenings and celebration events. We want to encourage as many parents and carers as possible to attend so that we can work together to secure successful outcomes for every student. We value your feedback and ask that a quick survey is completed at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> during the year.

For every Parents' Evening we offer hot food, as well as a prize draw for those who attend. The winner will receive a £50 Love2shop voucher. This year so far, we have served Chilli, Beef Stew, Carbonara and Curry. The side dishes are all prepared and served by students studying food and catering. Congratulations to our voucher winners who, so far this term, have been:-

**Tyler Jones (Year 10 Parents/Carers' Evening)**  
**Jayden Gordon (Year 8 Parents/Carers' Evening)**  
**Olivia Parlett (Year 8 Options Evening)**

### **Lego Robotic Elective**

The Lego Robotics Elective has been running since September, and our students have been working hard improving their building and programming of robots. A team of eight students were



sent to the Airbus Foundation in Stevenage on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February to compete in the regional competition. It was an outstanding experience with an opportunity to speak with members of the RAF, engineers and Lego Mindstorms volunteers. All were very impressed with the performance and conduct of our students, stating that their team work and enthusiasm were incredible. The All Saints team outperformed all others and won the trophy in the Robotics Challenge section of the competition! We are now proudly displaying our new trophy in the display



cabinet in Main Reception.

Congratulations to the students for working so hard and showing amazing resilience when faced with problems during the challenges!

**Victoria Lake**  
Teacher of Maths

### **Electives Programme**

Thank you to all staff and students for another fantastic set of electives. We have such a wide range of activities on offer and it is wonderful to see our students trying out new experiences. It will soon be time to choose new electives for the start of the summer term.

We ask all students to make their choices promptly and will put a spare copy of the form on the Academy website in case any are lost or mislaid.

### **Cheerleading Elective**

A range of students from Years 7 – 10 took part in a Cheerleading Elective last half term. They learnt how to perform group stunts by lifting a “flyer” into the air, which arm movements are used in a cheerleading routines and explored a number of cheer dancing techniques to create some excellent routines.



We have provided some pictures of their hard work in the newsletter for you to enjoy.

### **Sleep and Gaming**

There is currently a lot of media concern about the impact of computer gaming on the quality of sleep experienced by young people and their subsequent ability to focus in school. We have seen the effects of gaming on our students and will be working over the coming months to focus on lifestyle and healthy living. In the meantime, we would ask that all parents/carers monitor the number of hours their son/daughter is spending on their phone or device and put some sensible boundaries in place if they feel that the usage is excessive. We can offer support to families where gaming and/or social media habits are affecting performance. If you would like our support, email [parentcontact@allsaintsacademydunstable.org](mailto:parentcontact@allsaintsacademydunstable.org) in the first instance to make us aware of your concern.

### **News from Inclusion**

“The Bungalow” continues to grow, and we have now started a programme with “Groundworks” offering support with social skills, behaviour and anger management. Groups of students have also commenced a handwriting programme. We are constantly looking at the curriculum to ensure we can offer courses to support our students who have differing learning needs and we are clear that “one size” doesn’t “fit all”. Year 11 students who opted to study the Prince’s Trust qualification are nearing the end of the course and, with the support of their tutor Kirsty Tarrant, they are all on track to achieve a Pass. Miss Tarrant is very proud of the feedback from the Prince’s Trust, as the delivery of lessons and the quality of the students’ coursework has been described as “Outstanding”. Finally, we are pleased to welcome **Sandra Howse** to the team. Sandra joins us from a school in Fleetwood in Lancashire where she had a similar role and I’m sure you will join me in welcoming her to All Saints.

**Alison Spicer**  
Inclusion Manager

### **Academy Support**

As you know our Academy motto is Living Well Together with Dignity, Faith and Hope but, we as an Academy are well aware that there can be many things that impact our students lives and that these in turn can become a barrier to students’ learning. If there is anything that changes within your family such as a death, break up, housing issues, redundancy or benefit sanctions or anything that you feel you would like some support with, then please contact me on 01582 619700. You can also reach me at [anitapullen@allsaintsacademydunstable.org](mailto:anitapullen@allsaintsacademydunstable.org) to have a confidential chat and see what support can be offered to help you and your family.

**Anita Pullen**  
Children & Families Support Worker

### **Lunchtime**

We have recently felt that the internal areas of the Academy were becoming too busy at lunchtime and were aware that some of our younger students felt overwhelmed at social times. As a result, we have introduced a one-way system through the Café, set up better routines for students eating a packed or cold lunch in the Main Hall and improved our system for issuing lunchtime passes for clubs and activities. Students wondered why we needed the change but we discussed the reasons with our Student Leadership Team and agreed that we would trial the system. After only a very short period of time, we can see a huge improvement in the lunchtime experience for all.

**Elaine Boyd**  
Vice Principal

**Courage**



After a fantastic start to the year, with a number of victories and 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes in the whole school competitions, House Courage have recently maintained a more consistent position in the middle of the current leader board. We congratulate the other Houses on their recent successes and look forward to challenging them for the top spot.

**Determination**



Determination by name, determined by nature. As a house we throw ourselves into everything we do. We can see clear improvements in House behaviour and we now need to see attendance improving too. Although we are currently fifth in league, the only way is up.

**Excellence**



House Excellence has had a steady term and we are now in **THIRD** position! The students are excelling at meeting targets set weekly to increase their attendance and House points. We are also excellent at filling our litter bin! Our wonderful form tutors are setting the standards in demonstrating tackling new challenges. We have seen Mr Bowes, Mrs Bowers and Mrs Watt all dance the ‘whip nae nae’ and this has created a real buzz as students look forward to the weekly updates videos. Although we may not win the main competitions, we believe in celebrating the individual students in our assemblies with our Stars of the Week embedded into our weekly routine.

**Inspiration**



After an amazing end to the first term, Inspiration are still pulling together and working as a team. We are currently second on the leader board but are holding our own. We have participated in sport and creative projects and done really well across the board – though we do seem to have a natural inclination towards the Arts! A number of students, from different year groups, were very keen to participate in our House assembly (as were some staff) and actively helped to produce and star in the video.

**Respect**



Team Respect are currently sitting in the TOP SPOT and our aim as a house is to remain at the top and be named champions at the end of the year! We are slowly improving our attendance along with our behaviour points. We are very proud to announce that we are the House Netball champions with 4 out of 5 of Respect teams coming 1<sup>st</sup> in their year. As House Leaders we are very proud of this! Our next aim is to smash the dodgeball tournament along with the Spelling Bee and Creative Writing Competition. We’ve made a fantastic start Team Respect - let’s keep this up!

**Current Competitions**

Students are currently competing in the House Dodgeball competition and we are also getting started on the House Philosophy Competition— *what is love?*

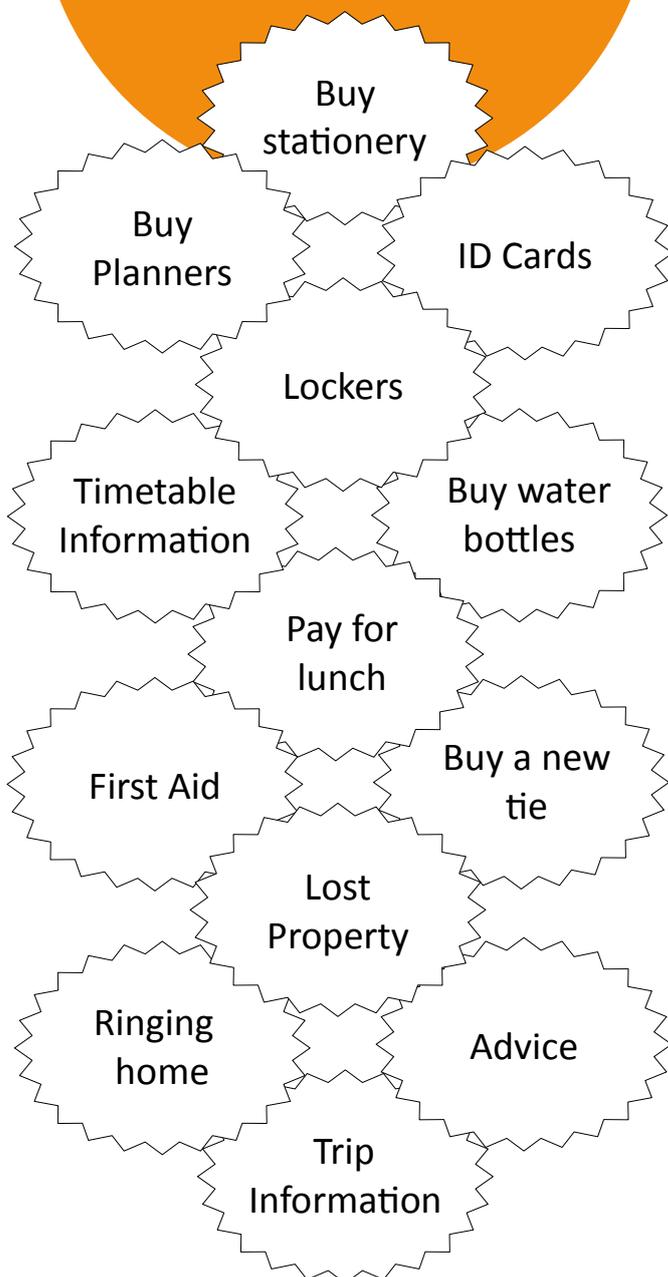
**Current Results**

Courage	470
Determination	437
Excellence	484
Inspiration	613
Respect	668

### Student Reception

The services and information provided by Student Reception cover every aspect of Academy life. Students are free to visit before school, during break and lunch or after school. If they need to visit during lessons, it should be for an issue that cannot wait until one of the aforementioned times and they must have a note from their class teacher.

### What help is available at Student Reception?



### What can students buy at Student Reception?

#### Stationery Items

Pen	20p
Pencil	10p
Ruler 15cm	20p
30cm	30p
Rubber	10p
Mini Highlighter	40p

#### Stationery Packs

Small Top Up Pack (1 each pen, pencil, ruler, rubber)	50p
Large Top Up Pack (2 pens, 1 each pencil, ruler, rubber, mini highlighter)	£1.00
Pencil Case containing 2 pens, 2 pencils, 1 each highlighter, pack colouring pencils, pencil sharpener, glue stick, maths set	£5.50

#### Other Items

Scientific Calculator (choice of pink or blue, same model used by the Academy)	£7.25
Student Planner	£2.00
ID Card	£2.50
Tie	£5.00
Timetable	20p
Water Bottle (with or without Academy logo)	£1.00

### **Improving Trip Administration**

We are going to trial an electronic system for obtaining parental permission for students to go on trips. Not only will this cut down on the amount of paper and printing we do, but we are hoping that it will be easier for parents/carers. A link to an electronic form will be sent out via text message which will provide a number of benefits, including no lost or misplaced letters, information reaching all parents/carers at the same time and functionality that allows us to remind parents/carers that they have not replied or query missing information quickly.

The use of this system relies on contact information being up to date and we ask that you let us know as and when you change your phone number.

### **ParentPay**

We would like to encourage all parents/carers to sign up to ParentPay as we are now using this system for trip payments, as well as lunch payments. This is an easy to use and secure system that can now be accessed from the MyEd app. If your child buys items from the Café, you are able to view their account balance as well as the items that they are purchasing. Your homepage will also show any trips that you need to pay for and this list is unique to your child. You will need a username and password to logon, if you have not already done so, and to request this information, please contact the Academy.

### **Sanitary Products**

We firmly believe that all students are entitled to dignity at all times and this includes times for our female students when they may be having their period. We are introducing a scheme to provide supplies of free sanitary products for all of our female students so that no-one ever feels that they could not come to school because they don't have what they need. The first stage of this scheme will be to ask all of our female students to complete a short survey that will help us set up the system effectively and provide the right products in the right locations. We thank everyone in advance for their participation.

### **Governor Vacancy**

There is currently a vacancy on the Academy's Governing Body.

This is a vacancy for a position nominated by the Principal Sponsor, the Diocese of St Albans, and not a vacancy for a parent governor, where the two positions are currently filled.

As well as being able to commit actively to the role of a governor, we are looking for someone who has excellent financial skills, either as a qualified accountant or holding a similar qualification. Whilst the Academy's finances are in a healthy position, we want to ensure that maximum resources are always made available for your children's education and are therefore looking for someone with the appropriate skills to support our finance team. If you are interested in discussing the opportunity, or know of someone else who might be interested, please get in touch with me via the school office.

Any nomination would have to be approved by the Diocesan Board of Education, but this does not mean you have to be a regular church-goer or affiliated to any particular denomination or faith.

**David Fraser**  
Chair of Governors



This year's Tenner Challenge runs from 19th February to the 16th March and we have 12 teams signed up.

Each team has been loaned £10 to set up a mini business. They have four weeks to make as much profit from that tenner as they can. There have been some interesting ideas so far and Friday saw some of those ideas as the participants set up stalls for the first time.

A quick reminder there are four weekly competitions that each team can also participate in, with the chance to win a money voucher, as well as help increase their selling power.

**Michelle Watt**  
Head of Character Education

### Young Enterprise

Qutopia, our team taking part in the Young Enterprise Company Challenge this year, have finally found their product and are gaining confidence in their selling. Those who were at the Year 8 Parents' Evening would have seen their unique, bright and cheerful mugs for sale.



They are now busy preparing for the presentation evening, however they are still selling, so if you have a particular design you would like to see on a mug let them know, I'm sure they can accommodate.

### Rewards Trips

Easter Rewards Trips are scheduled for the final week of the Spring Term and we are thrilled that a record number of students have qualified to participate in these opportunities.

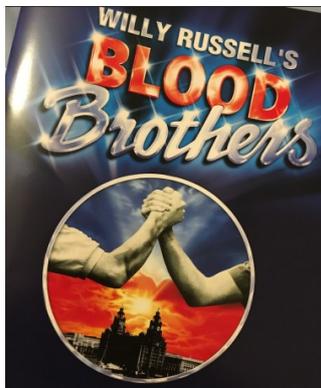
Years 7-10 plus Sixth Form have chosen the Orbital Trampoline Park as their reward trip and letters will soon be sent out inviting students to participate. Although the overall cost of the experience has been subsidised from our rewards budget to keep costs as low as possible, there will be a charge of £12.00 to participate in this visit and there is support for Pupil Premium students as always.

### Student Leadership

Thank you to our dedicated team of Head Boys and Girls from each Year Group. They have been meeting weekly to discuss many of the issues and projects which appear in the pages of this newsletter. They are also invaluable in contributing to the appointment of new staff at the Academy. Over the next few months each pair of student leaders will be working to develop their team of Form Group Representatives.

### Blood Brothers

So did y’hear the story of the Johnstone twins? Of one womb born, on the self-same day, how one was kept and the other given away? No? Well, the students on the GCSE Drama course in Year 9 and



Year 11 know the story. During half term we went to watch Blood Brothers at Aylesbury Theatre. The storyline is captivating, memorising and heart-wrenching.

Students are studying this play as part of their GCSE; keep your eyes peeled for upcoming performances

“I enjoyed so many elements of the play, such as watching Mickey grow up from a 7 year old boy into an adult, I liked the scouse accents but I loved the ending of the play, it wasn’t a typical happy ending. It left your heart racing!”



*William Stock, Year 9*

“The play was amazing! It is going to really help me with my written paper. I also really enjoyed going on the trip with the Year 9s as we hadn’t really spent time with them before and could exchange and give advice for their upcoming years in drama”.

*Cassie Chambers, Year 11*

### Arabian Nights

This term is very exciting for the Create and Design Faculty. It’s show time!

We have a special event for the Lower School Matinee performance on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March where students will enjoy lunch and workshops created and delivered by Year 9 and Year 10 Food and Art students.

All Saints Academy annual production is on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Performances start at 7.00pm, tickets cost £5 for adults and £3 for concessions.

Tickets are now on sale, please make sure you purchase yours in advance, it is going to be a sell out!



**Educational Trips and Visits**

Letters and consent forms can be downloaded from our website.

**7th –9th March**

**Osmington Geography Field Visit**

**16th March**

**Big Bang Fair**

**17th May**

**Salters' Chemistry Fair**

**4th and 5th June**

**Year 7 Local Field Visits**

**3rd—7th July**

**Enrichment Week**

Watch this space for details of additional opportunities which are planned for 2018.

**Catering Assistant required for All Saints Academy Dunstable**

Thursday and Friday, 7.30am to 2.30pm  
14 hours per week, Term time only 38 weeks  
£7.50 per hour

**Aspens Services Ltd** are a growing independent contract catering company, with a passion for serving high quality, freshly cooked meals from locally sourced ingredients into the Education sector.

**The role will involve**

Basic food preparation, serving our meals to students and staff, working on the tills as service, cleaning duties within the kitchen, Health & Safety compliance, friendly and polite customer service.

**Skills required**

Catering experience  
Ability to work in a team  
Food Hygiene Level 2 (preferred, but not essential as training will be given)  
Basic knowledge of Health & Safety practices

To apply, please send your CV to the Catering Manager at the Academy address

**Looking Ahead**

**Tuesday 6th March**

**Year 9 Parents/Carers' Evening**

**Thursday 15th March**

**Year 9 Careers' Day**

**Wednesday 21st March**

and

**Thursday 22nd March**

**School Production**

**Wednesday 28th March**

**Year 11 Parent/Carers' Evening**

**Thursday 29th March**

**Last Day of Term**

**Monday 16th April**

**Staff Training Day**

**(Academy closed to students)**

**Tuesday 17th April**

**First Day of Term**

**Thursday 26th April**

**Year 7 Parents/Carers' Evening**



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