

# Sandwell Academy

Parent Update

October 2018



*Upcoming dates for  
your diary*

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**Module Reports brought  
home on:**

Friday 23 November 2018  
(Module 2)

Friday 18 January 2018  
(Module 3)

**Year 11 Achievement  
Evening:**

Thursday 22 November 2018

**The Ultimate Goal  
Production:**

Wednesday 12 December  
2018

**Christmas Carol Service:**

Thursday 20 December 2018

**Christmas Dinner:**

Thursday 20 December 2018

I write to provide you with some important information and a reminder of key dates for the second half-term of the academic year.

## The Ultimate Goal



ALBION have teamed up with Sandwell Academy to bring the story of the "Three Degrees" era to the stage - and a new generation of youngsters. The Club challenged the Academy's acclaimed performing arts students to research, write and ultimately stage a show which would give today's youngsters the chance to tell the story through their eyes of those turbulent times 40 years ago. Albion are founding sponsors of Sandwell Academy, which is situated next to The Hawthorns, and had been discussing plans for this unique project for more than a year before the passing of Cyrille Regis in

February added extra poignancy to the idea. Now the Baggies are hoping the story of what life was like during the time when the iconic trio of Cyrille, Brendon Batson and Laurie Cunningham played for Albion. I can inspire a new generation and renew its anti-racist and barrier-breaking message of tolerance to 2018.

Headteacher, Mr Williams, said: "The project has been a fantastic opportunity for our students. Far from simply writing a play, they have immersed themselves in the history of the Three Degrees and the social issues of the 1970's. In doing so, they themselves have been on an important journey and the script they have produced is the culmination of their experiences. We are grateful to the Club for making this possible."

The youngsters' research took them to the stadium to witness the emotional scenes on the day of Cyrille's memorial fixture, as well as a tour of The Hawthorns as well as meeting and discussing the events of that time with Brendon. And at a recent rehearsal, they received a special visit from Julia Regis who was mightily impressed and visibly moved. The show, which is being rehearsed under the working title of "1978", is set to be staged on 12 December during a month which will mark the 40th anniversary of that Albion team's landmark performance in a 5-3 victory at Manchester United. Tickets can be purchased from the Academy reception at £5 each.

## Parents Advisory Group Autumn raffle / Horse Racing Night

The Autumn Raffle is one of the most important fund raising activities in the Academy year and provides valuable funds for the Parents Advisory Group to support the Academy. Students have already been given a book of raffle tickets to sell. Sold raffle ticket stubs and money should be returned to your child's Personal Tutor by **Tuesday 6 November 2018** at the latest. **In addition, students should return all unsold tickets.** The draw will be made at the Race Night to be held at West Bromwich Dartmouth Cricket Club on Friday 9 November 2018. Tickets for this event are available at £1 for adults (under 16s are free). Ticket request forms for this event have also been issued to students. I would be delighted if you, your family and friends were able to attend.

## Sixth Form Applications

Applications are now being accepted for places in the Sixth Form. The next Sixth Form Information Evening for our internal Year 11 students will be held on Tuesday 13 November, the wider community will be invited to the Academy, later on the year and their applications will be processed in accordance with our admissions arrangements. We have been oversubscribed for Sixth Form places since opening and expect to be heavily oversubscribed again this year. For this reason, if you your child is considering Sixth Form at the Academy and were unable to attend the October Information evening, it is vital you attend the November evening. For more information on the Sixth Form application process, please visit the Admissions page of the Academy website.

### Session 3 Sign Up

The Session 3 sign up system will change slightly after half term. Students will now need to sign up the day before for their Session 3; registers will still be in the restaurant during Breakfast as previous. If your child catches the coach, they will need to tell Thandi on the day that they require a place on the late coach. If they change their mind on the day of the Session 3, there will be a "Cancelling my Session 3 Place" form in the restaurant for that day. It will be up to students to tell Thandi they do not want a place on the late coach.

### New House System

We are delighted to inform you that our recent reform of the House System has been received exceptionally well by students. With a greater emphasis being placed on behaviour, school contributions and participation, we have seen more accountability and engagement from students. Currently all staff and students are allocated to a House; this has developed an increased sense of comradery within the school community. We look forward to seeing the House System continue to raise its profile within the Academy and the positive responses continue to develop across all Key Stages.

## Punctuality

We continue to work hard with students to ensure that they are in lessons promptly in the morning. The ideal time for students to arrive is between 8.05am and 8.15am so that students are in lessons for **8.20am for a prompt start**. Students arriving late disrupt lessons for other students and after half term we are introducing new measures to deal with repeat offenders. For students who are repeatedly late we will be introducing an Extended Learning Session to mitigate the effects of persistent lateness on their education. The new protocol for lateness will be available on the website accessible via the Useful Documents page.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

### Year 7 Induction and Internet Safety Information Evening – Wednesday 7 November 2018

Year 7 students have been issued with a letter with details of this event (this is an event that we expect all Year 7 students to attend). Please make sure you book your place online for this important evening for Year 7 students.

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### Term dates 2019/2020

Term dates for the next academic year 2019 / 2020 are attached and are also available to download from the Sandwell Academy website: <http://www.sandwellacademy.com/page/term-dates.aspx>

Please also note the term dates for the remainder of this Academic year and avoid booking holidays during term time.

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### Thandi Coach Service

As parents/carers are aware, the coach service to and from the Academy is now independently run by Thandi Executive Coaches. If you have any issues, feedback or comments, please direct these to Thandi by calling their office on 0121 565 2002 or 0121 565 2009.