



Spring Half Term 4 - 2022

07 April 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

I hope you are in the best of health.

As the spring term draws to a close, I write to thank you for your continued wonderful support. I am proud that Starbank has continued to operate smoothly despite the disruption of Covid-19. My staff are working extremely hard to keep children safe, happy and well and to make up for lost learning. It is your partnership that makes your children's success possible. You make a huge difference by ensuring that your child attends every day, ready to learn and eager to achieve.

Year 11

All pupils have continued to be a credit to themselves and their families. They have all shown a maturity and a determination in their studies which will ensure and assure success if they continue with their efforts as we now enter the final weeks before the GCSE examinations begin on Monday 16th May. Many Year 11 pupils have attended intervention sessions after school and on Saturdays. As we approach the final few weeks, we will continue to offer the opportunity for revision for all pupils. We are delighted to be able to plan for a celebration for our year 11 pupils at the Botanical Gardens in mid-June. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Year 11 the very best of luck for their final examinations.

Opportunities and experiences for our pupils in the spring term:

Parents, guardians, you should be rightly proud of our children, as I am.

Our pupils continue to be exposed to new opportunities and experiences. Some examples this term have included:



In January the Academy was delighted to secure its status as a link school for the Anne Frank Trust. This puts us as one of only ten schools across the country with this link which will allow us first access to unique events, presentations, and training from the Trust.

In February 9Service took part in a two day Voices for Equality workshop led by the Trust which explored ideas around discrimination, phobias and inequality before linking them back to historical examples. The engagement from the group was superb and the reflection work they produced was credit to how much they had learned throughout of the sessions.

In March the Academy celebrated International Woman's Day with 8Service taking part in an interactive seminar through the Anne Frank Trust. With 3 internationally renowned speakers discussing historical issues of gender inequality the students then had a chance to ask and answer questions around what they had learned as well as their own ideas.

February marked the culmination of a cohort of Year 10s completion of the Brilliant Club. This is a programme designed and run by Birmingham University which has seen 15 students complete an enterprise project over the last term and a half. Once their work was marked, they were able to attend a virtual graduation which was hosted by Birmingham alumni and a Q&A on life at the university.



To mark Holocaust Memorial Day 30 students in Y9 had the fantastic opportunity to hear a webinar presentation from a Holocaust Survivor. As you would expect this was a terribly fascinating and moving hour for the children who also benefited from a Q&A session afterwards.

The Academy now has Prefects across Y9, Y10 and Y11. This opportunity was available to all students across these year groups and were asked to complete an application form. Initially all these students are supporting lunchtime duties, moving forwards they will start to work with tutor groups in younger year groups to assist in Leadership Thought of the Week and Word of the Week.

Our Enterprise club is run out of the library each lunch time and sells various items each week raising money for their chosen charity of Young Minds (£343.00). In addition to supporting various themed events e.g World Book Day the project is self-funded from the money that they raise. Recently the group presented to the Principal on what they have been doing and how they would like to develop and extend their club.



Culture Day



World Book Day

The **Academy founded its Breakfast Club through the National School Breakfast Programme.** Staffed by our Pastoral Manager this runs from 7:45am until 8:10am each morning and is open to every student across the school with an offer of cereals, bagels and juice as a healthy start to the day. If you are interested in your child being a part of this please do let us know

In preparation for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, we have launched our contribution to the 70,000 hours of service. This will involve every student contributing hours of service in the local community through helping with cleaning, shopping, car washing and any other activity they can think of. In conjunction we have launched the Star story competition which encourages every student to write a fictional story about the Queen with the aim of publication in the Star Jubilee Anthology. You will see and hear more about this in the coming few weeks.

On Friday March 18th Red Nose Day was celebrated across the Academy with supporting items such as stationery available across the week and themed food on the day for staff and students. In total we raised £108-21.

On Thursday 3rd March the school celebrated World Book Day with favourite staff novels displayed around the site and in the library. The communications faculty delivered assemblies across the week to all year groups and dressed as a chosen character to explain to students on the day itself. Book vouchers were made available to all students and a lunch time cake sale raised money for Book Aid International.



RE trip to St Martins, Birmingham

At the start of March 30 Year 10 students visited St Martin's Church in Birmingham to supplement their Religious Studies course. They received a guided tour of the Church and presentations on the symbolism on view to them. Staff at the venue commented on how the students were a credit to the Academy and they responded enthusiastically with how effectively it brought their learning to life.



Huge congratulations to the following pupils (Arisa Hussain, Kamilah Khan, Sameer Ali, (Y7); Manpreet Sahota (Y8); Haleema Rafiq (Y10)) who performed their Dhol drums live at The University of Birmingham's Elgar Concert Hall on the afternoon of Sunday 3rd April. This was a hugely successful even, the pupils had a fabulous time performing in front of their parents who were part of a larger audience. The pupils had only ever performed in school assemblies, so this is a fantastic achievement. Well done. We are all proud of you!

School Uniform

The school uniform for this term once again has been outstanding. I would like to thank parents and pupils who make every effort to keep to our uniform regulations. As we have approached the end of this term, there are several pupils who have lost or misplaced their ties. The school will assure that a tie is made available to the child, and this will be invoiced to their parents, school parent pay account.

As we enter the summer term, I would like to remind you that your child is dressed as per school uniform policy. This can be found on our website and has been shared with you all in my previous communications with you. May I also remind you that extreme hairstyles and jewellery are not permitted.

From Tuesday 26th April, girls will not be allowed to wear a nose stud.

Starbank is a 'no make up' academy so I would ask parents to monitor this situation before they leave home.

Student Attendance & Punctuality

Attendance plays an important part in social development and success. I hope that you will continue to support us. Attendance to school has been improving every week since the Covid affected first half term of spring. Compared with national figures, our academy is securing better attendance in this regard. We need this to continue into next term. Whilst the overwhelming number of students have excellent punctuality habits, there are a small number of students who have been arriving late for school. Please ensure your child leaves home early enough to arrive at school on time, as line up starts promptly at 8.20am. This will have a positive impact on their school life as well as benefiting them in adult life.

Cashless System

As you are aware the school uses ParentPay as a cashless system and all payments for school lunches etc are through this system. Lunchtime in school is very busy and there are many pupils who will require a lunch from Mellors, our lunchtime provider. Please ensure that your **child's account has sufficient funds to cover lunch** etc. Please be assured that the instance that a child may not have sufficient funds, that they will be provided with a lunch. No child will ever go hungry at Starbank.

Class Charts

I am committed to move to all future communication for all parents via Class Charts. Many of you have already made this move. Thank you. Class Charts can be accessed by you to view your child's behaviour, view attendance records, access their weekly timetable, potentially view assigned homework, track scheduled detentions and view announcements from school. If



you have more than one child, you can access Class Charts information about your children from a single centralised parent account. Class Charts for parents can be accessed via their website or through their IOS and Android apps.

LOG IN GUIDE PARENT ACCESS CODE

1. Open www.classcharts.com/parent/login or via the app
2. Enter your email address
3. Choose 'I don't have an account yet'
4. Enter your parent access code and name
5. Choose a password
6. Click Log-in!

If you require any further assistance or need your parent code to be reissued, please contact the school.

Twitter

Please follow us on twitter for the latest news and updates that we have here at Starbank School. The link is [@starbank_school](https://twitter.com/starbank_school)

Please retweet and share!

Important dates for your diary: Spring 2022

- Tuesday 26th April - school reopens from 8.20am
- Monday 2nd May – May Day Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 3rd May – school closed (Well-Being Day)
- Wednesday 4th May – school closed (Well-Being Day)
- Friday 27th May – school closes for half term
- Monday 6th June – school opens for final half term
- Thursday 16th June – Year 7 parents evening
- Thursday 30th June – Year 8 parents evening
- Thursday 21st July – school closes for the summer break

Farewell

I would like to wish farewell to the following teachers; Mr Rehim, Mr Rehman and Ms Rai (mathematics), Ms Shujah (science), Ms Chowdhury and Ms Shaheen (English). I would like to take this opportunity to wish them well for the future and to thank them all for their contribution and dedication to the pupils of Starbank School.

We welcome

I would like to welcome Ms Davies who will be joining us as Assistant Principal. Mr Madoolal, will also add capacity to our leadership team for the summer term. Ms Fahad will also be joining us in science. Late this summer term we will also welcome; Ms Brickley (Director of Learning for Learning and Communication), Ms Davies (Director of Learning for mathematics) and Ms Lam, (teacher of mathematics).

Returning after the Easter break:

All staff will be in school for an **INSET day on Monday 25th April**. The school will therefore be closed to all pupils on this date.

All pupils in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 will return to school **at 8.20am on Tuesday 26th April**

I will expect all pupils to:





- Arrive punctually to lesson.
- Ensure they are prepared to learn – that they are responsible for their own equipment and books.
- Maintain focus and engage well with all tasks set, to best support their own progress.
- Treat all stakeholders, staff and pupils alike, with the same respect they wish for themselves.

By maintaining these behaviours as detailed above, pupils will develop the habits of successful people and will ensure their best chances of success. It will be important pupils accept that they are responsible for their own behaviour and conduct within school.

Finally:

May I take this opportunity to wish you an enjoyable, restful and safe break. Significant number of families will be continuing to be fasting during Ramadan. As we approach Eid soon after our return from the Easter break, can I wish you all a blessed and holy month. I would also like to wish our Sikh community all the very best as they prepare to celebrate Vaisakhi on the 13th/14th of April.

Thank you again for all your support and I look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Tuesday 26th April 2022

Yours faithfully,

Mr Gaetano Ferrante

Principal

