



20<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students for their diligence and achievements so far this half term. Some of the learning experiences have included National Fencing Day, European Day of Languages, Spanish Language Day and 5 Soldier Performance at the Army Barracks. I am pleased all students have been focused on learning and are making good progress.

Congratulations to our Year 11 leavers who achieved outstanding GCSE outcomes in the summer. We are justifiably proud to inform you that Rockwood Academy is **in the top 3% of schools nationally for progress**. This is a credit to the hard work that is put in each day by students and staff. You can view the school performance by visiting the DfE website.

### **Year 11 Revision Sessions**

Revision sessions will take place after half term. These sessions are extremely important so we can support your child in achieving the best possible outcomes. Students will receive details of the sessions and they can also be accessed on the Rockwood Academy website. If you have any queries do not hesitate to contact Mrs Afzal on 0121 566 6500. There will be ZERO tolerance of bad behaviour at these sessions.

Independent learning makes a valuable contribution to the education and development of our students, particularly in preparation for exams. Core subjects, English, Maths and Science, will be setting additional revision tasks for year 11 students to help them recognise the link between good study habits and higher standards of achievement. We would like your support in ensuring they reach their potential.

### **Year 11 Mock Exams**

These exams are extremely important and we expect everyone to treat them as though they are the real exams. The results of these exams will be used to inform our estimated grades that are used for college applications so it is important that they reflect the child's true academic standard. We will be providing a lot of guidance about revision and exam preparation and your support with this will be much appreciated.

### **Closing the Reading Gap**

Lexia strategies is an online programme that the school has purchased to support students in Key Stage 3 with literacy. Lexia strategies is proven to help your child accelerate their reading skills development. Parents should encourage their child to access the program at home to improve his/her literacy across the curriculum. Please contact Mr Nore if you require any further details.



### **Uniform Standards**

The Rockwood Academy uniform is an important part of the culture and ethos of our school. High standards of dress are expected at all times and students must come to school every day in uniform as an indication that they take pride in belonging to the Rockwood Academy community. Please can you continue to support the school in maintaining the high standards by ensuring your child does not:

- wear nail varnish or make-up
- wear trainers
- have extreme hairstyle

### **Leave in Term Time**

Rockwood Academy has adapted the Education Welfare Service guidelines of ZERO TOLERANCE for ALL term time holidays. Your children only attend school for 190 days out of 365. This leaves 175 days for holidays. Please book your holidays during these 175 days. If you do take your child on holiday without authorisation they may lose their place at Rockwood Academy and you may be issued a penalty notice.

### **Important Dates**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October**

Students return to school at the normal time of 8.40am

**Week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> November**

Year 11 Mock Exams commence

### **Events in Autumn Term 2**

#### **November**

- UK Active National Summit
- Mosaic Enterprise Challenge
- Geography Field Trip
- Career Week Assemblies


#### **December**

- A Christmas Carol
- Black Country Museum Visit
- 101 Dalmatians
- Christmas Jumper Day
- National Skills Show NEC
- BBC Children in Need Charity Day
- Winter Festival

Thank you to staff for their dedication and hard work, as well as parents and carers for the continued support of Rockwood Academy and our students.

Thank you for all your support and I wish you an enjoyable break.

Yours sincerely



**Sofia Darr**  
Headteacher