



Naseby Road, Alum Rock, Birmingham B8 3HG  
t: 0121 566 6500 e: enquiry@rockwood-academy.co.uk  
www.rockwood-academy.co.uk  
Headteacher: Ms Sofia Darr NPQH MEd Bed

10<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of the spring term, we have so many outstanding achievements to celebrate. I'd like to start by thanking staff and parents for their continued support of the academy. I am very proud of all of our students' accomplishments, including some excellent academic progress made by students across the academy. You can read more about their successes in the Spring newsletter, which is available on the school website.

Our Year 11 students are working hard in preparation for their summer examinations, and all of us at Rockwood Academy wish them the very best in their studies. We are delighted that, yet again, there has been an increase in the percentage of Year 11 students who have secured conditional places at King Edwards School Sixth Form. We are equally pleased that there has been an increase in girls applying for Science and Maths courses at A level across post 16 providers, following our practical integration of STEM subjects across the curriculum.

We have been able to award special badges to students who have displayed exemplary behaviour in promoting our CORE values of Collaboration, Opportunity, Respect and Excellence. Several leadership awards were also given out to students this term for various projects. For example, over 150 students from Year 7 & 8 have had their poetry work selected for publication in an upcoming regional poetry anthology published by Young Writers.

Our students were also successful in demonstrating resilience and building confidence during the SMSC day, which was delivered through interactive workshops hosted by external agencies. The workshops focused on subjects such as FGM, the impact of knife crime, forced marriages and developing confidence. We also held a number of events during British Science week including school wide interactive quizzes, and element-themed scavenger hunts. Year 7 attended a workshop on different species' habitats and adaptation delivered by Dudley Zoo, whilst Year 8 investigated which fruits generate the most amount of electricity. Year 9 and 10 took part in the University of Birmingham's annual Physics and Big Biology Quizzes.

This term, we held our annual careers fair for Year 11 students as well as a 'Mock Interview' day delivered by industry professionals. Our Year 10 students are currently preparing for another great success during world of work week in the summer term.

Our CORE values truly permeate throughout everything that we do; the dedication from our students only strengthens their character and ability to make the most of every opportunity they have at the Academy.

### Important dates

- We close for the Easter break on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019. All pupils will finish at 1.00pm on Friday**
- Inset Day (Staff Training Day) on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April. The academy will be closed to all students**
- Students will return to school on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at the normal time of 8.40am**
- Bank Holiday on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – The academy will be closed**

Year 11 GCSE Examinations – **start from 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

Please note Year 11 Easter revision sessions will be running over the Easter break. All Year 11 students have received a personalised timetable of sessions they are required to attend. The timetable will be available on the academy website.

### Upcoming Events in the Summer Term

- Pride Youth Network Conference
- Mosaic Mentoring
- Year 11 Achievement Evening
- World Press Freedom Day
- GCSE Music Trip
- Theatre Club Trip
- Schools Concert with Sheku Kanneh-Masan

### Uniform Standards

At 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 the academy every day in uniform as an indication that they take pride in belonging to the Rockwood community. Visitors to the Academy continuously complement our students on the high standards they exhibit at all times. Thank you for your continued support in maintaining the excellent high standards.

### Leave in Term Time

Rockwood Academy has adapted the Education Welfare Service guidelines of **ZERO TOLERANCE** for **ALL** term time holidays. Your child only attends the academy for 190 days out of 365. Please book your holidays during the remaining 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.

I look forward to sharing more of our students' accomplishments in the summer term. I'd like to wish all our students and their families a restful Easter break.

Yours sincerely



**Sofia Darr**  
Headteacher