



Walthamstow Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Principal Emma Skae BSc BEd MA NPQH

20 December 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Academy News

It has been an amazing term which has culminated once again with an array of exciting events such as the First Give initiative and the Book Fayre. Also this year our students have been taking part in our Christmas Homeless Charity Appeal for local charities “Branches” and FCENS (“Forest Churches Emergency Night Shelter”). This was led by our Student Leadership Team and was a huge success. We are extremely proud of all of our students for their amazing contributions, generosity and hard work.

Another of end of term success was our Christmas Concert. This was rated by many as the best in our Academy’s history, hosted by the charismatic Heena Kassam and Josh Iton in Year 13. Half of the money raised from this event will be donated to local homeless shelters; Branches and FCENS, with the remainder used to help towards the cost of maintaining our musical instruments. I would like to give a special thank you to all the performers, and also to everyone who supported the event. Any performers who wish to obtain a copy of the HD video footage should bring a USB flash drive to the Music Office.

Year 8 Options - Next half-term, our Year 8 students will make decisions about which subjects they would like to study up to GCSE. They will specialise in these subjects from September 2017. There are a number of reasons we ask our students to pick their GCSE optional subjects in Year 8:

- Having a broad and balanced curriculum in Years 7 and 8 means that students are confident by the spring term in Year 8 about which subjects they enjoy and are good at, and similarly, which subjects they would prefer not to study
- By making the choice to focus on fewer subjects from the start of Year 9, students get the chance to study those subjects in greater depth than if they continue to study a large number of subjects
- Starting to study their chosen GCSE subjects in Year 9 means that for some subjects, students might start the GCSE content earlier, which will be even more motivating and challenging, as well as give time for greater depth of study.

Some subjects will be compulsory; these core subjects are English, Maths, Science and PE. Students will then have **four** additional choices of GCSE subjects to study. In order to help our students decide which four subjects to choose, we will be holding assemblies about each subject in January 2017. Students will also receive an ‘Options Booklet’ which provides information on each subject, including the compulsory core subjects.

Over the Christmas period, please do speak to your Year 8 child about their future ambitions and aspirations, which subjects would enable them to pursue their careers of interest and which subjects they enjoy most. This will prepare them well for the options preparation process in January and Options Event on 2 February 2017.



Walthamstow Academy
Billet Road
Walthamstow
London E17 5DP
Tel: 020 8527 3750 Fax: 020 8527 3603
Email: info@walthamstow-academy.org
Registered in England No. 4439859
Registered Office: Fairline House, Nene Valley Business Park, Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 4HN

Page 2

Walthamstow Academy Facebook Page - it's now even easier to find the Walthamstow Academy Facebook page; just click the Facebook icon on our Academy homepage. We look forward to sharing news of more of our events and student success stories with you soon.

Start of Term Arrangements - Spring term starts on Wednesday 4 January 2017, all year groups should arrive by 8.30am as usual. The Academy day will end at the usual time of 3.30pm unless there are after school activities.

Spring Term dates

Begins: Wednesday 4 January 2017 8:30am

Ends: Friday 31 March at 12:50pm

Half term: 13 to 17 February 2017

Inset days (Academy closed to students)

Friday 20 January 2017

Monday 20 February 2017

Friday 10 March 2017

Finally, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable Christmas and look forward to seeing you in January.

With best wishes

Emma Skae BSc BEd MA NPQH
Principal