

June 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you well after what I hope has been an enjoyable and restful half term break. I continue to be privileged to work every day with our GREAT Year 8 students. As we look forward to Year 9, I am looking forward to further supporting the young people as they begin to consider subject options, potential career opportunities, and life after school.

This year, Mrs Sanderson and I have enjoyed witnessing many student successes in all aspects of school life. The Year 8 girls netball team won the Tameside Year 8 Girls Netball cup in a brilliant final game against Fairfield High School for Girls. The whole team demonstrated all our school values (Genuine, Respect, Excellence, Achieve, Together) throughout the tournament, and it was wonderful to see the students celebrate with their medals and trophies. Also, we have 50 trained First Aiders in Year 8; students who have volunteered their time to learn the basics of First Aid including bleeding, broken bones, and CPR. It is a pleasure to see the young people supporting others and wanting to learn these new skills to help in the future. In Year 8, more and more students are taking advantage of our extracurricular offer. As we approach Year 9 and if your child is not currently involved in any extracurricular activities, there are many that are offered at GAA for free. I hope that you will support and encourage your child to attend an extra-curricular to enhance their employment skill set. Please remind your child that these opportunities are shared on their Microsoft Teams page and through the form time curriculum.

In English this term, students are learning about William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. In March, forty seven Year 8 students went to Stratford-Upon-Avon to see the birthplace of Shakespeare and see *Romeo and Juliet* on stage at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. This greatly improved student understanding of the plot, characters, and context of the play. The students made us proud, showing the public of Stratford-Upon-Avon how GREAT our students truly are. Our students have access to our school library during social times. Other works by Shakespeare are available in the library in various, more accessible formats.

Even though we approach the end of another school year, I am continuing to support Year 8 students to develop into independent young people. Please encourage your child to have their uniform, bag and PE kit organised the night before, set their own alarm clock and have checked Microsoft Teams each morning for any relevant messages. It is important that children are encouraged to develop their organisation skills and this will set them up for a successful day in school. The school mobile phone policy continues to be Not Seen, Not Used, Not Heard so please consider this when attempting to make contact with your child throughout the day. For urgent messages, please ring reception who will divert your call to a member of the Year 8 team. We will be more than happy to help. Please note, that I will be reminding students that if they need to contact home that they must come to the pastoral office and not contact through a personal device. Additionally, the Academy's uniform policy is clear. It is expected that students attend school in full school uniform every day including black school shoes and tie. Acrylic nails and eyelash extensions are prohibited. If there are any issues with uniform, please make us aware as soon as possible so we can work with you to find a solution.

As always, the Year 8 team at GAA are here to support your child to learn, grow and achieve on their academic journey. Please do not hesitate to contact the Year 8 team on silverpastoral@gaa.org.uk if you have any concerns or questions.

Yours faithfully,

Miss N. Jones

Miss N Jones
Head of Year 8