

26 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Rt Honourable Lord Frank Field**

It is with huge sadness that we heard about Lord Frank's passing. Throughout his impressive career, Frank gave his life to improving the lives of those around him. His unwavering commitment to social justice not only defined his decades of public service, but is also the foundation stone for so many causes and organisations he was involved in.

That is why, as the founder of The Frank Field Education Trust, our mentor and, above all, our friend, he had such a profound impact on our multi-academy trust and all those who are connected to our schools. Frank's focus on ensuring that all young people have access to the same educational opportunities is at the heart of everything we do. Dr Chris Hampshire, Chair of The Frank Field Education Trust stated that he will do all he can to ensure Frank's vision and legacy lives on.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Frank's family.

### **Principal's Secondment**

Following my announcement yesterday regarding my secondment as a Director of Education for The Frank Field Education Trust from Wednesday 1 May, thank you for the kind messages that I have received. I am nervous but excited about this new opportunity. I hope that you will all welcome Mr Paul Masher as the new acting Principal and show him the same respect and support you have shown me.

### **Late to the Academy**

I would like to emphasise the importance of being in the Academy on time. There has been an increase in the number of pupils routinely arriving at the Academy late after the gate has closed. Pupils who arrive late are greatly disadvantaged because they miss starting the day with their peers and the beginning of lessons. This means that they are often unsettled and missing crucial learning. Please encourage punctuality to the Academy with your child.

The following changes have been made to the late procedure:

- Lateness to the Academy will result in a -10 (20 mins detention that day)
- 3 lates in one week will trigger a lates warning letter.
- 4 + lates to the Academy will trigger a day in the ISC.

If the late is unavoidable due to an extenuating circumstance, please make the Academy aware as soon as possible.

## **Removal of the Threshold Negative Points System**

Following the introduction of the new detention system, the existing threshold system of sanctions for accumulated points will be removed. The new system will operate based on negative points equalling detentions. If a student accumulates -50 points in one day, this will then trigger a placement in the ISC on the following day. Failure to attend a detention will be sanctioned at the discretion of the Academy. Detentions attendance is compulsory, and pupils must attend unless the Academy is made aware, and a prior agreement is made.

## **Y11 Exams**

Thank you to our Year 11 pupils for their positive start to exams this week.

Over the last 5 days, I have seen some incredible pieces of sculpture being made in the practical exams including sand landscapes, a three-dimensional organ system and masks of emotion (sorry, no photos allowed) and in Art, portraits, dresses and mixed media pieces of artwork. Their talents and passion for their work is evident in their final pieces.

The Spanish Speaking exams have also gone really well. Resilience abound! In the Breakfast Club and around the academy, a rainbow of 'Flash Cards' were filled with their prep work and being rehearsed everywhere. Everyone arrived on time (thank you everyone), they were nervous but ready for the challenge.

Pupils have a final day of Photography on Monday, a brief break from exams and then we begin in earnest on Tuesday 7th May with the Health and Social Exam.

## **Dates to remember.**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April to Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May – Y11 Photography Exams continue.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Principal's Excellence Awards

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Y11 Health & Social Exam

Please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format if you have any questions. You can contact the office by email on [info@bircheshead.org.uk](mailto:info@bircheshead.org.uk).

Yours Sincerely

Ms K Dixon  
Principal