



ROBERT OWEN ACADEMY

Robert Owen Academy

Blackfriars Street

Hereford

HR4 9HS

T: 01432 513120

E: info@roacademy.org

W: www.roacademy.org

Wednesday 2nd December 2015

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As we approach the end of the autumn term I am writing to inform you of arrangements for the final day of term and an upcoming staff training session.

The Academy will close early for students on Monday 14th December at 1.20p.m (Food will be available from the canteen prior to departure) in order for Staff to undertake the Governments 'PREVENT' training which has a high priority nationally due to issues with extremism and international issues with terrorism.

On Thursday 17th December we will be holding a Christmas lunch £3.00 payable in advance (50p donation for free school meals).

We will break for Christmas on Friday 18th December at 12.20p.m (students will be able to pre order sandwiches as a full canteen service will not be available prior to heading off to the Christmas break).

Students return from the Christmas break on Wednesday 6th January 2016 (5th Jan Staff training).

Year 11 & 12 Mock Exams begin week commencing 11th January in preparation for June 2016 examinations. Mock exam timetables will be issued to students prior to the Christmas break. Please check through these with your son/ daughter and ensure they prepare fully for these exams.

From a positive outlook, students from Years 10, 11, 12 visited the Skills Show at the NEC Birmingham as highlighted on BBC Breakfast News on 19th & 20th November. Students were able to visit a large number of employer's stands finding out about future careers and apprenticeships. A good day was had by all with many students taking part in the 'Have a go' activities which are a strength of this major careers event.

Two students in Year 12 are currently working in sports turf management through our partnership with Leominster Golf Club. Vincent Fish, Chairman of Leominster golf club has praised their attitude and work ethic.

Alex Jones Year 10 continues to be successful at swimming gaining a large medal haul at Millfield, Frome Open meet at the end of October. We wish him continued success.

ROA has been thanked by Hereford in Bloom for the sterling work done by students around the city, in particular the tidying up and replanting on a key junction by the Old Market development.

On another matter, it has been noticed, as the term has progressed, that a number of students are drinking a variety of high sugar, fizzy drinks before school or at break times. The link between these drinks (including Coke, Pepsi, Monster and Lucozade) and poor concentration or hyper-activity has been clearly evidenced and as such we strongly urge parents to ensure that students do not consume these products during the school day. We will monitor this situation closely and will enforce a complete ban on these products in the Academy.

A minor number of students have been late to the Academy this term. From Wednesday 6th January students arriving after 9a.m and having missed registration will be coded as a 'U'. Under attendance guidelines students who accrue ten 'U' codes will be referred to the Local Authority for possible sanction which can include a fine. If there is a genuine reason for continued lateness please contact the Academy to discuss the issues.

A final concern, continues to be around a minority of students smoking in or near the academy despite repeated requests from staff and Mr Hubble's recent request for support. The Academy reserve the right to randomly search and confiscate smoking equipment if problems persist and this has been made clear to all students. As a result of this, we will be changing our main entrance/exit for students to Blackfriars Street as of Monday 7th December 2015. The gate will be locked at 8.50 am, any students arriving after this time should report to reception.

Should you wish to discuss any of the issues highlighted in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the academy and we will be pleased to speak with you directly.

Yours sincerely
Stephen Phipps
Vice Principal