

## Principal's Forum Update

**Further to the 'Meet the Principal' events that occurred late in 2017, I wanted to update you on some of the progress made across the Academy.**

Having discussed a follow up event to be calendared originally in late February, we have decided instead to aim to establish a more regular event, led and supported by our parent representatives on our Academy Council. I will be in touch again shortly to share with you the proposed date for Term 5 and do hope you will be able to attend to be able to hear about the changes that have taken place so far, the impact we have had, and what our plans are for future improvement.

In short, we have seen enormous improvements in behaviour in lessons, enabling students and teachers once more to enjoy calm lessons and to secure good academic progress. Our Ready to Learn approach has enabled students to have security in a set of clear expectations with sanctions that enable the time and space to work on readiness to learn. This means that classrooms are virtually disruption free. We continue to work on embedding these expectations so that students can expect and experience ever greater consistency in the application of our Ready to Learn system. This term, we are focusing on rewards and will be discussing this in greater detail with student representatives so that we know that our high expectations, when met, are appropriately rewarded and that students get rewards they feel proud of.

We have begun to establish a support hub for all students, and particularly for those students who struggle to access learning or require additional intervention with social, emotional and academic matters. This hub will continue to develop over the course of Terms 5 and 6 as originally planned, with further enhancements in the new academic year.

The quality of teaching is improving across our school and, as a result, students are making more progress than originally predicted in 2017. Our most recent mock results for Year 11 demonstrate that students are on track to achieve well in their GCSE exams in 2018 and we are focusing during Term 5 on ensuring they get exceptional support to do so.

Punctuality to lessons has improved significantly so that students are arriving on time and behaving in an exemplary way throughout – fewer learning opportunities are being lost for students and lessons are now making the most of the time available, which is having an impact upon student progress.

We are making some significant structural changes to our school, which will take effect from September and the impact for students will be that they will benefit from enhanced pastoral care and more effective leadership of all areas of their school life.

There will also be a timetabled enrichment programme in Years 7, 8 and 9 that will enable students to exercise more choice over their curriculum and will have the opportunity to get involved in a range of exciting opportunities within the course of their usual timetabled day.

I will be able to expand further on these changes in person during the Parents' Forum meeting in Term 5 (date to follow). In summary, in the interim, it would be appropriate to say that we are on track to deliver our improvement plan as originally set out during our meeting in November, and that we are gathering momentum as different changes take effect. We are well aware of the areas that need to improve and strive to ensure that John Cabot Academy provides the best possible experience for your children over time.

Thank you for your continued support of your child and of our school.

**Sally Apps**  
Executive Principal

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## **Year 8 Parents' Evening**

**We would like to remind parents that the Year 8 Parents' Evening is taking place on Thursday 19 April.**

Appointment sheets have been given out to students this week.

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## **Sport Relief 2018**

**Throughout the final week of Term 4, we ran several competitions to raise money for Sport Relief.**

A huge well done to everyone who participated in the Sport Relief challenges and fancy dress, it was a fantastic end to the term. As a result, we were able to raise £402.88 for the charity that supports vulnerable people in the UK and the world's poorest countries.



## Year 11 letters of support

In the letter given out at Parents' Evening on 22 March, we asked Y11 parents to write letters of support and send them in to be given out to students on Friday 11 May, the last day before the GCSE exams commence. (Extract from the letter is outlined below.)

*"We are also going to give students a letter of support on Friday 11 May, just prior to the majority of exams commencing. This is extremely powerful and motivating if it comes from a parent. I have included an example of a letter on the back. If you didn't do this and leave a letter with us during the parents' evening, please do send one in to me and I will ensure that your child receives it on 11 May."*

Many thanks to those parents who have sent in letters of support so far. Please do continue to send them through or drop them into reception for the attention of Steve Church. An exemplar is shown below for any parents who might need it. Thank you in advance for your support of our Year 11 students at this crucial time.

### Exemplar letter of support:

*Dear Daniel,*

*It seems like only yesterday that you were starting school as a tiny, beaming four year old and here you are, sitting your GCSEs. I wanted you to know how proud I am of you. You are so much more than your exam results: you are outrageously funny, extremely caring and so so loyal to your friends. You have given me so many reasons to feel lucky to be your Mum.*

*Good luck with your exams. I know how hard you have worked and I have every confidence in you that you will do well. I know we haven't always seen eye to eye about revision, and there have been times when we have frustrated each other. I promise you, I have only nagged you and annoyed you because I love you so much!*

*As you sit these first exams, be confident about what you are capable of. Take this opportunity to show the world what you can do. Remember that, ahead of the exams and ahead of results day, I am already proud of you.*

*Mum xxx*

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## Admissions 2019

**In accordance with the Schools Admissions Code, John Cabot Academy have concluded their consultation on their 2019 Admissions Policy.**

As required, we have consulted for six weeks between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018. The 2019 Admissions Policy has been determined and is available to view on the John Cabot Academy website.

**Sally Apps**  
**Executive Principal**

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## Spike Island Open Studios

Friday 4 May 2018, 6–9pm

Saturday 5 May 2018, 11am–5pm

Sunday 6 May 2018, 11am–5pm

Monday 7 May 2018, 11am–5pm

Spike Island Open Studios sees artists and tenants throw open their doors. You are invited to explore the working environments of hundreds of artists, designers and creative businesses. The weekend includes family friendly activities, tours, events and pop-ups by some of Bristol's best street food traders.

This is a great opportunity for those considering careers in the creative sector to see how artists work, as well as some examples of the creative businesses that exist in the local area. Further information is available at:

<http://www.spikeisland.org.uk/events/events/spike-island-open-studios-2018/>

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## Messages to students

**Over the Easter holidays, a new telephone system was installed in the Academy.**

As part of the new system, we no longer have telephone handsets in all the classrooms. This means we are no longer able to ring through to a classroom to deliver messages immediately to students. Parents should therefore be aware that whilst we will endeavour to pass on any messages during the day to students, this may take longer or may have to wait until tutor time at the end of the day.

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## **Girls in Engineering, Construction and Computing: *Providing Powerful Careers for Powerful Women***

**An all day event on Wednesday 30 May, from 9.30 – 15.45, at Bath College's City Centre Campus.**

Students will have the opportunity to take part in three 1.5 hour workshops focused on **Engineering, Construction and Computing**. There will also be presentations delivered by past Bath College female students from all three sectors, their journey and professional achievements to date.

This event is focused on courses at Bath College that could lead to the following careers:

**Engineering:** workshop machinist, apprentice engineer, aerospace engineer.

**Construction:** technical careers such as site manager, site engineer, site inspector, construction technician, quantity surveyor, building surveyor, valuation surveyor, buyer, architect technician and architect technologist.

**Computing:** IT support manager, network support manager, database manager, security specialist, web designer, app developer and games developer.

*This event is primarily aimed at female students; however, all students are welcome.*

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## **Autism Awareness Week**

**As some of you may be aware, World Autism Awareness week took place between 26 March and 2 April.**

The event was supported across the media and in schools and colleges. As we were on Easter holidays at the time, as an Academy we have looked to identify some opportunities to raise the awareness of our students about Autism during our first week back this week. As an important event, there were several television programmes and cultural events celebrating individuals with ASD, with the aim to break down some of the widespread misconceptions that still remain amongst individuals around Autism.

As an Academy, we have a number of students who have a diagnosis of Autism and a great deal of work has been done over a number of years to ensure that their needs and the needs of all students are met effectively within the Academy. By undertaking this awareness, we hope to ensure that all of our students grow in the inclusive environment we foster at the school and we will continue to support all students in developing the understanding and compassion to contribute as adults to an increasingly diverse society.

During the course of this week, Mrs Apps has delivered some assemblies on ASD and information has been shared with the form tutors to allow opportunities for discussion. This we hope has been done effectively enough to foster a natural desire in the students to seek out more information and, in some instances, allow greater discussion with their peers.

Should you wish to find out more information, please feel free to contact the school or access the National Autistic Society's web site from the link below. I would also encourage you to ask your sons/daughters what they have learned about ASD over the week.

<http://www.autism.org.uk/>

Thanks again for your continued support.

***Gethin Howells, SENCO.***

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## National Autistic Society Bristol

**NAS Bristol is a parent led support group that exists to help and support families of young people with Autism/Asperger's in Bristol and the surrounding areas.**

They organise regular inclusive play opportunities for children up to 19 years old who have Autism and run parent drop in groups and speaker events about a range of topics connected to Autism such as sleep, behaviour and education. They also host an online Facebook parent group to allow members to seek help and support 24/7. The group is a safe space for members to share information, support one another, ask questions and celebrate the good days.

Currently, they have regular family swim sessions, rock climbing sessions and host events at Avon Valley Country Park and Cattle Country. Last year, they hosted an Autism Awareness Ball, which was a great success and will happen again during world Autism week next year.

The parents of one of our students are committee members of the NAS and can get tickets upon request for anyone who would like to join the celebrations or who wants to find out more about how the NAS works. If any parent is interested in finding out more or being put in touch with the NAS, please email Sam Crew ([sam.crew@jca.cabot.ac.uk](mailto:sam.crew@jca.cabot.ac.uk)) and she will forward on your details to the parents.

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## First Story South West Regional Writing Event

**At the end of last term, JCA First Story students attended this event to work with a variety of published writers.**

The day was hosted at the University of Bristol and the students attended workshops that helped to develop their creative writing. At the event, a writer selected Kyra McDowell (Y8) to perform her poem in the prestigious Will's Memorial Hall.



## First Story 100 Word Competition

Abigail Jay (Y10) was shortlisted in this national competition and was chosen as the 'school winner.'

Her work will be published on postcards and she will also receive prize books. A copy of her piece is below.

**Abi Jay**  
**John Cabot Academy**

The beauty upon her neck wore a subtle red gaze. So pure and relaxed as if in a dream state. Despite her eyes being blood-shot open-wide, expressionless, as if her emotion is trapped in her mind. Stupid girl. You have brought incredible shame to me. Yet the silence was a pleasant change from the boisterous women who'd cry out at the slightest nudge. Feeling bitter wails of breeze that chilled my spine never less made my wife look alive. The blackened marks I signed on her skin, decorated the corpse while swinging in the wind.

FIRST STORY  
100 WORD STORY  
COMPETITION

VINTAGE

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## Maths Challenge Success

Congratulations to Joshua Penney in Y10 who received a merit in the next level of the Intermediate UK Maths Challenge run by the University of Leeds.

Josh had to qualify to get into this level of the competition and then performed brilliantly to achieve a merit, scoring 95 and placing him nationally in the top 5%. Well done Joshua!

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## Dates for the Diary

Below are a number of key dates into the near future that parents may wish to be aware of:

Years	Event
All years	w/c Monday 16 April is week 1 on the timetable Junior Maths Challenge, Thursday 26 April May Day Bank Holiday, Monday 7 May Term 5 ends, Friday 25 May Term 6 begins, Monday 4 June
Year 7	
Year 8	Y8 Parents' Evening, Thursday 19 April
Year 9	Y9 Future Quest visit to UWE, Tuesday 24 April Y9 Future Quest trip to Clifton Suspension Bridge, Wednesday 23 May
Year 10	Y10 Future Quest visit to UWE, Thursday 19 April Y10 Envision Project visit to Direct Line, Thursday 26 April Y10 Future Quest visit to Bristol Uni, Wednesday 9 May
Year 11	GCSE exams start, Monday 14 May
Sixth Form	

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## Lost Property

We currently have the following items of lost property on reception:

Black Puma drawstring bag  
Black FitBit watch

Best wishes

**Sally Apps**  
**Executive Principal**