

Ref: End of Summer Term

Wednesday 17th July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

As we end this school year, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to celebrate the successes we have seen this academic year in terms of your child and the school.

On Friday 19th July, school will finish at 12.25pm. There will be a phased release of students, beginning at 12.00pm and we will be encouraging students to return home directly at the end of the school day.

This year at Jewellery Quarter Academy has seen many changes. It has been fantastic to see how we have all remained agile and adapted to the changing situation, with a sense of purpose and a commitment to the success of our students. We are pleased that the new school year will further enhance this with the arrival of our new headteacher, Mr Henshaw, who has been busily working with the senior leaders to ensure a smooth transition to his leadership and continued success into the new school year. This summer, we will be handing the school over to contractors for some much-needed refurbishment works. This work is planned to continue to the end of the calendar year, but will see a renewal of technology and Wi-Fi, redecoration and the creation of several spaces within the school that will enhance your child's experience at JQA. An exciting time!

Our biggest success this year, is our students and their continued dedication to their successful futures. I am always impressed, as I walk the corridors during lessons and see your child hard at work. The support we have seen from families at events throughout the year, including parents evening and showcases has demonstrated your continued commitment to your child's future. I am immensely proud of everything that JQA is doing to ensure its students successful future.

Studies have shown the importance of retrieval practice and revision as excellent ways to store learning in a person's long-term memory, a skill crucial for future success. To aid students with this we have purchased a subscription to GCSE Pod for all students in Year 11 and Year 10 to support them. GCSE Pod is an online library of content and information in the subjects that your child studies. It will be used by teachers to set tasks and homework for students but should also be used by students as an independent revision tool.

We have given each student in Year 10 a tutorial of how to use GCSE Pod and get the most from it, ready for Year 11. If your child was absent or late on the day of this, they can go to the website and click "get started" in the login section to activate their account.

There is more information for parents about how to use GCSE Pod here - <https://www.gcsepod.com/parent-resources/> In the new term we will introduce Year 9 (who will then be Year 10) to this platform and ensure they know how to use it. If your child is in years 7, 8 or 9, we encourage them to keep reviewing their learning over the break to ensure they retain all learning into the new year. They will continue to have access to platforms such as Educake, Maths Watch and Reading Plus.

This term has seen our year 11 students successfully complete their GCSE exams, with us saying goodbye, for now, on Friday 21st June. We look forward to seeing them on Thursday 22nd August for results day. Students in year 11 and their parents/carers are welcome to come into school, to the school site, to collect their GCSE results on Thursday 22nd August between 9.30am – 11.30pm, entering through the entrance on Camden Street. Staff, senior leaders and post 16 providers will be on hand to give students any advice and support they need as they take their next steps. If you are unable to come into school, please contact us, so we can make arrangements to get your results to you.

We know that the summer can be a challenge to some families. We have been contacted by [Bring it on Brum! – Holiday Activities and Food](#) who have a variety of dates and venues available to book throughout the summer, that are free of charge. To book, you will require a code, which has been shared by text message and will be followed up with a letter to those who qualify.

The safety and welfare of the school community at Jewellery Quarter Academy is paramount and we are committed to protecting all students from harm. All staff are trained in Child Protection procedures, and we have a number of Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL's). As parents, carers, and members of the school community it is important that you are aware of hot topics and issues that are encountered every day by children and young people in Birmingham.

You will be receiving a summer letter from the West Midlands Police which contains important information about how to keep children, young people and families safe over the 6-week holiday period. In addition to this I would like to signpost local and national services that you will be able to access for support.

Mental Health:

Forward Thinking Birmingham- Pause hubs | Forward Thinking Birmingham
Kooth- Home - Kooth

Food Banks:

The Trussell Trust- Find a Food Bank - The Trussell Trust

General Support and Resources:

Childline- Childline | Childline
NSPCC- NSPCC | The UK children's charity | NSPCC

We will begin the new school year on Wednesday 4th September 2024. Arrival times will be as below:

- Year 7 – 8.30am
- Year 8 – 10.15am
- Year 9 – 10.15am
- Year 10 – 9.45am
- Year 11 – 8.30am

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone at JQA for their support and commitment. In the short time that I have been at JQA, I have felt the commitment of the whole school community. JQA is a truly special place to have been a small part of. Thank you!

All that remains is to wish you and your family an enjoyable summer break; the team look forward to seeing you in September.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Rebecca Bakewell
Interim Headteacher