

University Academy of Engineering South Bank

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Friday 14th October 2016

Dear Families,

I am delighted to be able to write to you following my recent arrival at the Academy and let you know what has been happening at UAESB since the beginning of September.

It has been an exciting and fast paced Module 1 as the Academy continued to grow and welcome new students into year 7 and in the Sixth Form. The Academy is rapidly growing and now has close to 400 students across years 7, 8 and 9. We have also welcomed many new staff, not least myself! Be sure to check out their biographies on the Academy website.

Learning and Teaching

Learning and teaching is very much at the heart of what we do and I am excited to announce that we are going to the next level on our journey in the relentless pursuit of excellence in this regard. Next module on the 17th and 18th November we will be becoming a member of the Teaching Enhancement Effectiveness Programme (TEEP) run by the nationally recognised and acclaimed organisation SSAT. This is an exciting opportunity to develop our pedagogy further and will enhance our project based themed learning philosophy based upon Creativity, Connections and Challenge.

During Module 2 and the course of the year we are also going to be working with other important local partnerships in Southwark, an example being the Michael Faraday School who is an outstanding education provider. We will be collaborating with them to raise standards by sharing and gaining knowledge with them, particularly in the areas of English and Mathematics. In addition we will be issuing new planners to all students that allow subjects to provide more information home about the project work we are doing and offer exciting opportunities to extend learning beyond the classroom.

Attendance

I would like to thank our students and parents for achieving an attendance rate of 96.6%. This is above the national average and shows the commitment that you are making to the education of students at UAESB. It is important to encourage your children in their learning by ensuring they are ready and prepared for the school day and coming in even when they aren't feeling 100%. We are aiming to improve our attendance to over 97% next module and we would like to continue to count on your support in this endeavour.

Open Mornings and Evenings

We have had a lot of successful and well attended open events this module. The students and staff have been fantastic ambassadors for the Academy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone publicly for their efforts in what has been an exhausting but worthwhile schedule over the last few weeks. Please be aware that we have Sixth Form recruitment events on 10th November and 23rd November. Please see the website for more details.

Dyson Engineering Visit

As part of our celebration of British Engineering we participated in an engineering workshop on 14th October for 60 students in year 8 and 9 organised by Dyson. The workshop gave us a unique insight into the one of the greatest and most innovative engineering company mind-sets over the last 100

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years. Students were able to understand how brilliant ideas became reality and were set multiple challenges by the Dyson team during the day including modelling their own inventions. The workshop is just one of many STEAM links to the curriculum we will be making during the course of the year.

BMX

We are delighted to announce a link up with Access Sport. As you know we are located very close to Burgess Park which is the home of the Peckham BMX club and boasts Olympic medallists, as well as our students, amongst its members. Through Access Sport we have managed to secure free access to the BMX track during the year for our students during curriculum time. They have also donated 15 bikes to the Academy for use in lessons which are also being used in our learning in Science, Engineering and PE lessons. We have also been provided with a BMX mentor/engineer every Friday who is part of the world renowned British Cycling setup that has been responsible for so much Olympic success over the last decade. We launched this exciting project with a road show event by the founder of Burgess Park who encouraged our students to be the best they can be with a highly motivational, passionate and inspiring assembly

Sports Results

On the sporting front we have got off to a great start to the football season! Our year 9s recorded a resounding 7-2 victory over local rivals Sacred Heart. Our year 8 team followed this up with an 8-0 thrashing of Compass and the recently formed year 7 team maintained our 100% unbeaten record with a 2-2 draw against Compass.

Music lessons

Our ever expanding curriculum has now embraced musical diversity and from module 2 the Academy will be offering peripatetic lessons in Guitar, Drum, Saxophone and Keyboards. You may want to invest in some ear plugs!

All that remains for me to say is have a restful half term and we look forward to seeing your children back on 31st October for the start of Module 2. I look forward to a highly successful working relationship with you and the community in creating the futures of the young ladies and gentleman in our care.

Kind Regards,

Gary Nelson
Principal

Jason Philipsz
Vice Principal