

University Academy of Engineering South Bank

Trafalgar Street, London SE17 2TP

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Letter from the Principal.

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of yet another Learning Module, I thought it would be useful if I brought you up to date with progress and developments at the Academy.

The new timetable with a more manageable and efficient 1 hour per lesson structure is now in full flow and has proved to be a hit with both staff and students.

The new timetable has allowed us to carry on providing a wide range of enrichment activities but also provide an opportunity for students to have built in 'prep time' to allow them to complete some of their homework, access their subject teachers around the Academy and use the LRC to develop their love of reading in a supervised environment.

In our latest data we have a great deal to be pleased about in terms of student performance across the curriculum. The vast majority of subjects are performing in with our aspirational targets with the majority actually exceeding set targets which is a credit to both students and staff for all their continued hard work. The SIMS Learning Gateway continues to provide you with an easily accessible online place to access your child's progress at school. We are planning to hold an SLG training evening at the Academy early in the new Module so more details will follow here.

The number of student rewards being issued has increased and there have been a huge number of Bronze awards lapel badges issued, with Silver awards the next challenge. Students are wearing these badges with pride which is great to see. The Rewards Bus remains a great incentive for students to keep trying to achieve all they can. In terms of school culture, we have far exceeded our target of 5 to 1 Praise to Sanction ration and we are currently achieving a 26 – 1 praise to sanctions which is terrific.

In terms of student admissions we continue to grow as good news is shared with other local families and communities and 10 new students have joined us since the beginning of the year.

We have just created an Academy Curriculum Plan for 2017/18 and we keen to introduce Business Studies into the Key Stage 4 and Post 16 curriculum to complement our STEM core focus. We are keen to also develop Performing Arts to support students' creativity and confidence in communicating their STEM ideas. The Academy Curriculum Plan also introduces an opportunity for students study to Business and Economics at Key stage 4 and in the Sixth Form. We are also very excited to introduce A level Philosophy and Ethics into our Post 16 plan.

Parents of Year 8 students should be aware that their first formal Parents Evening will take place on the evening of the 28th Feb from 4.30 pm to 7pm. The Parents Evening will also include a 15 minute presentation at 5pm on the choices within the curriculum. Please do your best to attend this Parents Evening as I'm sure you will find the whole experience very useful.

You'll also receive our first Student Newsletter with this letter. I am absolutely delighted that students here are keen to share their good news and success stories. Please do read the newsletter and note that it has been entirely researched, edited and published by the students themselves. Well done to all students involved.

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We have now had our second meeting of our Parents and Friends Association. 60 family members attended which was very encouraging. Jennifer Lawrence, Chair of the PFA, led presentations from Senior Staff and focussed discussions. The evening was a huge success. Please do contact us if you'd like to find out more about how you can get involved.

As I may have told you previously, I remain very committed to linking with other schools and sharing our best practice between us. Just like our students, we are always learning and we are determined to do so in order to achieve our mission to provide the very best education money can buy for our community.

In summary, the progress being made here is excellent and it's a privilege to be part of the journey at UAE South Bank. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Kind Regards

Gary Nelson

Principal.