

19.05.2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

RE: General Update and Information

At this time of year, with only 2 calendar months until the summer break, all staff and students are very much focused on project completion. Many of our year 13 learners are hoping to finish their personal projects and professional portfolios as soon as possible and sign-off early, whilst our year 12's are working hard to deliver their collaborative TV drama and short-film projects in time for the premiere in July, and those students who are studying additional subjects have embarked on their first exams.

Meanwhile staff are focussed on marking, moderation, and helping students maximise their banked grades.

Year 13

Sign-Off Process

Year 13 students are officially enrolled at the academy until 21st July. However, from Tuesday 6th June our year 13 students will be permitted to stop attending pathway lessons once the following conditions have been met:

- All BTEC work must have been completed to the highest standard and assessed by the teacher(s).
- The set industry qualifications and certifications must be complete.
- All industry projects and placements must be complete.
- Professional portfolios must have been assessed against the ScreenSkills work readiness and set/stage etiquette competencies.
- Students must have completed their employability and freelancing preparation tasks.
- Students must have set up their professional portfolio website, email address, social media accounts, and Crew Birmingham account.
- Students must have planned their next steps in detail with their tutor and have either employment or higher education/training arranged.
- The sign-off form (available from reception), must have been completed by the student and teacher, signed by the parent/carers, and approved by a member of SLT.

Please note however that those who take an additional examined subject (GCSE resit, A'Level), should continue to attend these lessons and revision sessions as directed by their teacher(s) until the examinations are complete.

Crew Birmingham Registration: 25th May 2023

To kick-start our learners' careers in the local and national industries, all our year 13 students will be given a professional account on the Crew Birmingham database and website. This professional membership will give young people access to crew and cast roles on a wide range of professional productions in Birmingham and the surrounding areas. The membership can also be transferred to other CrewUK cities should any learners wish to relocate. This is a paid membership (covered in full by the academy), which will be valid until September 2024, at which point graduates can decide whether they wish to renew it or not.

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Students will be invited to a 10-minute appointment with the Crew Birmingham team on Thursday 25th May in order to set up their account. Please be aware that due to the numbers involved, this appointment may fall outside normal pathway hours, but we expect all students to attend their allotted time regardless.

Sci-fi London 48hr Film Challenge: Sat 24th June – Mon 26th June 2023

Threewise Entertainment are sponsoring 4 teams to enter the Sci-Fi London 48hr Film Challenge 24th-26th June 2023. These teams will be made up of a combination industry professionals and year 13 students. This is an incredibly exciting opportunity to take part in one of the industry's renowned film-making events. Students involved will secure genuine production/acting credits on IMDB, and their work will be presented to some of the biggest names in the industry.

This experience is open to all year 13 students, from all pathways. We expect the vast majority of students to have completed their studies and be 'signed-off' by this point, so learners involved will be returning to the academy as guests/visitors for this project.

The sign-up form (digital) has already been shared with learners.

Please be aware that the competition will take place across the full weekend (24th – 26th June), and will involve long days. All teams will use the academy site as their base of operations, but will film at locations across the city.

Securing Acting Work in Birmingham Workshop – 15th June 2023

On 15th June, Louise Osbourne will be running a workshop for aspiring actors, that explores in detail how to access work in the local industry. She will be sharing key contacts and supporting students in building their core network. This is aimed primarily at year 13 students, but bookings will be open to year 12 also. Students will receive further details and a booking form via email.

Showcases and Awards Ceremony

To round off the year our year 13 students are hosting showcases, where industry representatives, members of the public and parents/carers have an opportunity to see some of the personal projects our students have been working on this term. The first, hosted by Creative and Technical Production took place on Wednesday 17th May, and was extremely well received. Thank you to those who attended. The Acting, Writing and Technical Broadcast Showcase is scheduled for Thursday 22nd June. Subject leaders will write to you separately with further details.

We will also be hosting an awards and graduation ceremony for year 13 students in early July, at the Mockingbird Cinema, where the Sci-Fi London films will be premiered, best student work celebrated, and students will be formally issued with their BOA Stage and Screen Diplomas. We are aware that students are also planning a party/celebration of their own to take place at a local venue afterwards but be aware that this is not an activity we will be supervising or taking responsibility for.

Year 12

Major Projects

Year 12 Production Arts, and Technical Theatre students have just completed a 3-week run of acting shows at BOA Creative, Digital, Performing Arts academy (*Crucible*, *Ballad of Maria Marten*, *Blue Stockings*). They have done a fantastic job of producing these works, creating costume, props, set, hair & makeup, lighting and sound. They also production-managed and technically produced all the shows. This included long hours, and working at weekends, which deserves huge thanks and congratulations. These students will now move on to work placements on professional productions at the Old Rep Theatre, the Hippodrome, and the REP, and will begin development and pre-production planning for their major Christmas production project.

Year 12 Writing, Directing & Screen-craft, and Broadcast, Film & Content students are currently very busy filming their collaborative projects. All productions are now in principal photography (production) and teams are working at locations both on the academy site and across the city. We are very pleased indeed with the quality of the work so far, and we are looking forward to showcasing the final cuts at the premiere in July.

During the final term of the year, a significant focus for all year 12 students will be on careers, next steps, and thinking about employment, apprenticeships and University.

Year 12 Showcase – 10th – 13th July

As the academic year draws to a close, we are planning an exciting opportunity to see the films our year 12 students have produced. The year 12 Collaborative TV/Film Project premiere and showcases will take place Monday 10th – Thursday 13th July. Tickets can be booked here : <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/birmingham/boa-stage-and-screen-production-academy>. Note we are not showing all films on every night, so do double check which project your young person has been involved in before booking.

Opportunities

As you know, we are constantly creating work experience and placement opportunities for our students. Here are a few that are coming up this term:

- Placements at the Old Rep Theatre working on *Summer Holiday* – Production Arts and Stage Management
- Placements at PRG – Technical Theatre and Live Events
- NHS Mental Health Promotional Film Project – Broadcast, Film & Content
- Voice Acting for Animation with Yamination – Writing, Directing & Screencraft

End of Term Arrangements

The last day of the academic year for students is Friday 21st July.

Later in the term we will provide parents and carers with a detailed year-end progress report for every learner. We expect every student to have completed all year 12 projects and work by the time we break up for the summer. Teachers will reach out to parents/carers for support if they have any concerns that this expectation might not be met.

General Information

Examinations

The first examinations of the season have been taking place this week and will run until the end of June. I have written separately to those students taking exams and their parents/carers, but I just wanted to take this last opportunity to wish those learners the very best of luck. We will of course support students with their revision over this period.

Transport Disruption

We saw another train strike last week, and the next strikes are planned for 31st May, 2nd June, 3rd June, which thankfully do not fall on academy days. In the unfortunate event that further strikes are announced in term time please be assured that we will always try our best to keep the academy open and fully staffed. As such we expect students to do their best to get to the academy via alternative routes. On strike days we will always relax the late code and set work online just in case. The most important thing is that students keep us informed if they are struggling with transport. Ultimately, we are trying to reflect industry expectations in our practice – “the show must go on!”

Staffing Update

As we approach the end of our second year, we are looking forward to September, when we will see further growth. This means we are growing our staff team.

I am very excited to announce that over the past weeks we have made some outstanding new appointments for September:

- Louise Tugwell – Head of Screen Production
- Tayyib Mahmood – Teacher of Broadcast and Film Production
- Shireenah Ingram – Teacher of Acting and Writing for Screen
- Megan Knight – Pastoral Manager

Key Dates Summary

- **GCSE/A'Level Exams at BOA S&SP** – 17th May to 20th June
- **Half-term break** – Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June.
- **Inset day** - Monday 5th June (Note some students are required to attend a GCSE English Exam and GCSE Maths Booster Sessions and 1-to-1 Intervention Appointments on this day).
- **Year 13 earliest 'sign-off'** – From Tuesday 6th June.
- **Freelance Acting Workshop with Louise Osbourne** – 15th June
- **Y13 Acting, Writing and Technical Broadcast Showcase** – 22nd June
- **Sci-fi London 48hr Film Challenge (Y13)** - Sat 24th June to Mon 26th June
- **Y13 Graduation Event** – TBC (early July)
- **Year 12 Collaborative TV/Film Project Premieres** - 10th – 13th July
- **Last day of the academic year (Summer break)** – Friday 21st July

Thank you as always for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Michael Painter
Principal