



# Sir Graham Balfour School

Member of **INSIGHT**  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this long and exceptionally busy term, I would like to congratulate your children for the way in which they have approached all aspects of school life, both inside and outside of the classroom, so far this year. I am so proud of our students and the positive attitude that they have towards their education. I would like to take this opportunity to give you a flavour of school life so far this year and to bring you up to date with news from the school as we approach the Christmas season and prepare for a well-deserved rest over the holidays.

After welcoming our new Year 7s into the school, we were able to start the school year with a Celebration Evening to recognise the excellent GCSE and A level exam results achieved by our students in the summer. It was a joyous evening and much enjoyed by all.

School life is about much more than lessons, homework and assessments. We have more children than ever before participating in enrichment and extra-curricular activities. If your child has not tried out one of these activities please encourage them to look on the school website ([Activities & Clubs - Sir Graham Balfour School](#)) so they can see the vast range of opportunities available and, hopefully, give one of them a try. As well as our regular clubs, many students have taken part in a wide variety of trips and visits. They have had the opportunity to take part in expeditions for the Gold and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme; an English Literature trip to the Bronte Museum; raising aspirations visits to Oxford, Birmingham and Keele universities; a Business Studies trip to Cadbury's World; a History trip to Krakow and Auschwitz; students have represented the school at the Remembrance Day parade and the Christmas Tree Festival in Stafford, they have also performed carols at local care homes and nurseries and our PE teams are enjoying success in football, rugby, cricket and netball tournaments.

In the New Year we already have trips to Cambodia, Iceland and Austria in the diary as well as opportunities for all parents with students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 to come into school to meet with your child's Form Tutor.

## **Uniform Reminder**

I am really pleased with the standard of uniform for the vast majority of students in school, however we do have a small minority of students who do not follow our clear rules regarding the school uniform (see - [School Uniform - Sir Graham Balfour School](#)). Leggings, jumpers with branded logos (e.g., Nike) and trainers are particular issues at the moment. Please do support us by ensuring that your child returns to school in January in the correct school uniform. If you have any questions or if you are having difficulty in purchasing school uniform please contact Mrs Metcalfe ([smetcalfe@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:smetcalfe@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk)).

## **Mobile Phone and Air Pod Reminder**

Students are not allowed to use their mobile phones or Air Pods inside the school building. Students can use them outside at break and dinner. They should not check their phones for messages in corridors, classes, the toilets or dining hall. We have this long-established rule in place to ensure that the items do not cause disruption to learning and they will be confiscated if students are caught using them inside the building. If you need to get an urgent message to your child during the school day, please call our reception and they will pass the message on immediately.

**Finally**

We want to provide the high-quality teaching, opportunities and care for our students to enable them to leave Balfour with the very best GCSE and A level grades possible. Working together is really important in ensuring that our students can experience success and fulfilment during their time with us. I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers for your support of your children and to Sir Graham Balfour School this term.

All that leaves me to do is to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday January 8<sup>th</sup> at 8.50am for the start of the Spring Term.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Mason', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Matthew Mason**  
**Headteacher**