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Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: HEADTEACHER'S END OF YEAR UPDATE

As we come to the end of the 2024 - 2025 academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parent/carer community for your unwavering support for our school community. Since September, we have achieved so much together, and I am immensely proud of the progress and accomplishments we have seen across our school.

A particular highlight this year was, of course, our recent Ofsted inspection, where our school was judged 'Good' in all five areas of the framework. To hear that inspectors found our school to be "a positive and respectful place to learn", where pupils "live out the values of community, tenacity and aspiration", fills me with pride. That inspectors recognised the transformation in our school's culture is a true reflection of the hard work, unity, and shared vision of our entire community.

I would like to extend once more my sincere thanks to all of you who took the time to share messages of support during the inspection and to those who responded so positively via the Ofsted Parent View survey. The inspection team paid close attention to your feedback, noting the sense of togetherness that now defines our school. Without your continued support, CTA would not be the welcoming, respectful, and aspirational place it is today. It is a privilege to serve as Headteacher, and I look forward to continuing this journey with you as we build an even stronger future for our young people.

Our continued partnership with the John Taylor Multi-Academy Trust has provided valuable opportunities for our pupils. This year, CTA hosted a Trust-wide Art subject excellence competition, featuring guest illustrator Raj Dhunna. We also proudly celebrated the pupils who received the 'Exceptional Achievement Award' throughout this year, a prestigious recognition open to pupils across all 21 JTMAT schools. It was a privilege to join them at special awards ceremonies led by Mr M Donoghue, CEO of the Trust.

We were also delighted to host our annual Rewards Evening at the Bescot Stadium in Walsall in celebration of our pupils' hard work, resilience, and commitment throughout the year. Awards were presented across a number of categories, including Subject Awards, Head of Year Awards, Head of House Awards, and the Headteacher's Awards. I am especially grateful to our Sixth Form pupils Isla, Ellie, Khalen, Grace, and Caitlin for hosting the evening so professionally, and to all pupils who shared their musical talents with outstanding performances. The evening also featured presentations to our Duke of Edinburgh participants, who have successfully completed their Bronze and Silver assessments this year - a fantastic achievement.

This year has also seen a wide range of enriching educational visits. Highlights include the Year 12 trips to Krakow and London, the ski trip to Les Deux Alpes, and our annual trip to Birmingham Pride's Big Community Event. We've placed a strong focus on aspiration and future planning too, through trips such as the Year 12 visit to the UCAS Fair at the NEC and Year 10's exploration of university life at the University of Birmingham.

This week, Year 8 pupils have enjoyed a visit to France and Germany, Year 7 ventured to Warwick Castle, and Year 9 explored the Imperial War Museum. Each of these experiences helps to broaden our pupils' horizons and connect their learning to the wider world.

Our extra-curricular offer has continued to thrive, with new additions including crochet club, doodle club, and mindfulness club. Our six-week First Aid course proved incredibly popular, and it was a pleasure to present certificates and badges to over fifty pupils who successfully completed the training - equipping themselves with life-saving skills.

Our Sports Leaders have also made a real impact, supporting events at local primary schools and hosting a number of exciting community activities here at CTA. Looking ahead, our staff are already planning a refreshed and expanded enrichment offer for the 2025–2026 academic year, which will be available on our school website in September.

Sports Day was, as always, a wonderful display of tenacity and community spirit, with the whole school coming together in support of one another. I am delighted to share that Fallow achieved a brilliant victory this year! The staff race was a particular highlight - my thanks to all colleagues involved in organising such a memorable day.

We also hosted our 'Rodeo' celebration event this term – a wonderful occasion that saw pupils don their cowboy hats to enjoy a range of fun activities, while raising funds for Spark Burntwood. Meanwhile, our CTA Theatre Company staged the first-ever performance of 'Pandemexplosion', a new work by playwright Mark Wheeller, commissioned by the International School of London. The performance was exceptional, and the post-show Q&A with the playwright himself provided a unique and inspiring opportunity for our pupils.

Our annual Summer Showcase again demonstrated the incredible talent at CTA, with exceptional musical performances by our pupils, and appearances from our staff band and our sign-language choir - of whom we are immensely proud.

Our Sixth Form pupils have also shown incredible initiative and compassion through their charity work this year. Most recently, our newly appointed Sixth Form Committee planned and led a charity sports day, raising funds for their chosen charity, Alzheimer's Research UK. Their dedication to fundraising throughout the year, including efforts for Crisis at Christmas, has made a meaningful contribution, and they should be very proud of all they've achieved.

This year also saw the successful introduction of our Personal Development Drop-Down Days, which included workshops, guest speakers, and team-building activities to support our pupils in navigating the challenges of today's world. These have proven invaluable, and we are excited to build on this initiative in the year ahead.

As we draw the academic year to a close, our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils have now completed their examinations, and we are incredibly proud of the maturity and determination they have shown. We look forward to celebrating their results with them on A-Level Results Day (14th August) and GCSE Results Day (21st August), and we wish them every success for the future.

While we celebrate the many successes of this year, we remain committed to ongoing improvement and to ensuring every child receives a positive and inspiring learning journey. These opportunities would not be possible without the hard work and relentless dedication of our staff. I would like to thank them sincerely for their work this year on behalf of us all.

We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back on Wednesday 3rd September, and in the meantime, I wish you all a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer break.

Thank you once again for your continued support.



Ms N Mason