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Dear Parent/Carer,

As we end this extraordinary school year we wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support through everything the coronavirus pandemic has thrown at us. The students, and staff, have shown great resilience in the face of the challenges, and we feel incredibly proud to lead such a strong community that always overcomes any adversity. The collective mission of the Academy is to 'break barriers' and we've certainly done that together this year.

The termly Parent Survey is still active until Friday 23rd July and we're delighted that 93.6% parents surveyed so far would recommend JQA to another family (a 2% rise from Spring Term). This follows on from the latest termly Student Survey where 95.2% of students who responded said they'd recommend JQA to a friend moving to the area.

Despite the pandemic, we have ended the year on a high. Over the past few weeks, students have enjoyed reward trips and activities and our Year 11 students enjoyed a wonderful 'Prom' last night at Edgbaston Park Hotel – an important ritual giving them the opportunity to have memories that will last a lifetime.

The Government's recent announcements mean we look ahead to September with optimism for a less disrupted year. Later this summer, requirements to isolate when identified as a 'contact' of a positive case will end for under-18 year olds, along with the current bubble structure and social distancing in schools. Students are still encouraged to test themselves for COVID-19 and to record the results in the usual way over the Summer and we have issued enough testing kits to support this. If you require any more than those issued, you can collect safely from the Academy reception which is open throughout the summer. Our priority remains the welfare of all students and staff; we will continue to keep a close eye on the guidance over the summer and communicate any changes to our plans, should they be necessary.

Before then, students in Year 11 and their parents/carers are welcome to come into school to collect their GCSE results on Thursday 12 August. A separate letter to Year 11 parents and carers will be issued closer to this date with full details so students can safely collect. Staff and senior leaders will be on hand to give students the advice and support as they take their next steps after JQA.

Our latest newsletter has a wealth of information from the last two weeks - as well as activities available to students through our links with JQ Heritage projects over the summer: craft workshops, art projects and even archaeology!

Over the summer, there will developments to the site as we look ahead to September and constantly improving our provision

All that remains is to wish you and your family an enjoyable summer break; I will write to you again in late August with more detail about the return in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Barton - Head of School

