

Friday 4th March 2022

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Welcome Back

It has been wonderful to welcome students back warmly after the half term break. There's already been lots happening at the Academy and this edition certainly does capture this.

We have welcomed new members of the team and students have been involved in many projects, including fashion design, competitive sport and becoming published authors! We have also had students working with CoachBright and PetXI, our academic tutoring partners. Our students have also been learning about the ongoing conflict in Ukraine in carefully planned personal development sessions. I'd like to draw your attention to our [extra-curricular timetable](#) which is now online and the timetable for the crucial [Year 11 Mock Exams has also been published](#).

There is updated guidance in relation to the '[living with Covid plan](#)' on our website and it has been good to see attendance figures improve to almost pre-pandemic levels. There is no need to do twice-weekly testing now and full information is on our website. I must insist that parents/carers ensure their child is getting to school on time for 8.30: the team happily offer a FREE breakfast to any student arriving between 8.15-8.30. It is important we get back into the rhythm of good routines.

I'd like to remind all parents/carers about our clear [uniform standards](#) too and to ensure their child is ready and smart.

I was delighted to welcome the families of Year 6 students who have been lucky enough to get a place at JQA for September 2022 and I am looking forward to meeting Year 8 parents and carers this week on Thursday for our first 'on-site' Parents' Evening in over two years!

It is, indeed, 'welcome back!' I'd like to remind you that you can catch up with ongoing developments at the Academy in our [weekly blogs](#) from now on and on our [social media](#) as our newsletter will revert to being half termly again. I also look forward to seeing many of you at our forthcoming Parent Symposium which will be on site on Thursday 31st March 2022.

Mr J Barton—Headteacher



Our Shared Mission:

At JQA, we focus on **delivering a CORE education** that provides a broad range of opportunities for students from all backgrounds to learn and achieve as well as developing a depth of character around our shared values.

Collaboration: we succeed by working as a team.

Opportunity: we develop by taking on new challenges.

Respect: we care by respecting and looking after each other.

Excellence: we achieve by always giving 100% in everything we do.

COMING UP...

Our Events calendar is online at: <https://www.corejewelleryquarter.academy/events/>

Thursday 10th March —Year 8 Parents' Evening

Monday 14th March —Year 11 Mock Exams begin

Monday 14th March—Commonwealth Day

Thursday 31st March —Parent Symposium and Survey

1st April = Ramadan Begins

**Jewellery
Quarter Academy**

St George's Court
1 Albion Street
Birmingham
B1 3AA

tel: 0121 729 7220 between 8am and 4pm

email: enquiry@corejewelleryquarter.academy

www.corejewelleryquarter.academy

 [@COREJQAcademy](https://twitter.com/COREJQAcademy)

 [@corejqacademy](https://www.instagram.com/corejqacademy)

COLLABORATION—Year 8 Parents' Evening

At JQA, we are aware of the importance of working together to ensure the very best outcomes for all our students. We are therefore delighted to welcome all Year 8 parents, carers onto the school site on Thursday 10th March from 4pm-6.30pm to discuss the progress of our fantastic students.

Meeting slots are to be organised through [SchoolCloud](#) and this process will open on Monday 7th March.

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers on site for the first time in a long while.



COLLABORATION—Welcome to Miss Lisbie

“Hello all, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Nikelia Lisbie and I am the new Performing Arts teacher here at JQA and will be teaching Drama and Music. I have worked at City Academy for the past two years as a Literacy for Life and Drama teacher.

I will endeavour to help guide all students in the development of their physical, vocal and performance skills in both Drama and Music.

From an early age, Performing Arts has been a passion of mine and I trained as a Dancer/Performing artist and performed in many shows and pantomimes. I look forward to providing extra-curricular opportunities for students within Drama and Dance here at JQA to further enhance their learning experience.”



COLLABORATION—Reading at JQA

“With the official opening of the library to all year groups, I’d like to introduce myself – I’m Miss Gadd, and I’m often found in our beautiful new library!

My role as an Academic Reading Coach has officially begun this spring term, and I will be focussing on working with students to improve their reading skills. Reading is essential for every academic subject; therefore, we are really pushing to engage our pupils in a range of texts, and in turn ignite their excitement for reading.



World Book Day will be celebrated on Thursday 3rd March this year and our students have been given their free book tokens, which can be redeemed throughout the day. A free book of their choice is a fantastic way to get children reading more, creating a rabbit hole of book genres to explore. Miss Wint kindly collected hundreds of books for JQA students to get their hands on this year – keep an eye out on Twitter to see which books we will be chosen this year!

In addition to filling our library with an abundance of books (as well as some free books for them to choose from), I have opened a Story Writing Competition for this term. To celebrate 25 years of Harry Potter, the theme of the competition is Fantasy, which allows our creative students to use their amazing imaginations to create mini masterpieces.”



COLLABORATION—Reading at JQA

“I’ve also launched a ‘Book of the Month’ to run every month to highlight some fantastic texts that I believe our students will love, and from this week I will be hosting our Wednesday Reading Group After-school Club, continuing with *Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs.

During half term, I visited our local Spring Hill library, where I collected the Birmingham Library cards for our students. The welcoming librarians gave me a tour of this beautiful historic building, located next to the Tesco superstore around the corner. It is the perfect serene space for pupils to enjoy a good book in a safe and comfortable environment and they are welcome whenever! Having accessibility to a wide range of books for free is a massive stepping-stone within a child’s education. Not only does this provide more opportunities for pupils to expand their reading skills, vocabulary and knowledge within certain spheres, but brings together a community, creating a sense of oneness and a happy environment for learning .

I look forward to meeting students from all years and helping in their reading development. If any pupils would like any help with reading, want to give any book suggestions or just chat about a book they’re enjoying, please feel free to come to the library anytime.”



COLLABORATION—Book of the Month

We encourage all our students to become active and regular readers, as a good reader can achieve anything.

This month's 'Book of the Month' is *Coraline*.

Coraline is a dark fantasy children's novella by British author Neil Gaiman, published in 2002, it was awarded the 2003 Hugo Award for Best Novella, the 2003 Nebula Award for Best Novella and the 2002 Bram Stoker Award for Best Work for Young Readers.

Twinkling with gothic menace and dark subtext, Gaiman's deliciously creepy fantasy mines childhood displacement and sinister new environments to create a startlingly original and unnerving novel. Ominous prophecies in the tea leaves and alternate parents with black button eyes infuse this strange, poignant work with a singular literary aura.

Come along to the newly opened school library and take out your copy of the book today!



COLLABORATION—Attendance Matters

Attendance Matters

All students are expected to arrive on time by 8.35am and attend school every single day.

We do not accept poor attendance, as students who are not at school are missing out on vital learning opportunities.

If your child is ill, you should call our Absence Line on 0121 729 7220 and press Option 1.

[There is updated 'covid-related' information on our website in line with the latest guidance.](#)

If your child is classed as 'persistently absent' (if their attendance drops below 90%) you can expect measures to be put in place to support you as a family to make sure your child's attendance improves.

We work in partnership with the Local Authority's legal team and will not hesitate to take action should your child's attendance not improve to our expected standards of 97%.

Attendance during one school year ...	Equals this number of days absent ...	Which is approximately this many weeks absent ...	And means this number of lessons missed
95	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons

We are continuing to meet with families and begin legal proceedings in some cases.

If you have any questions about attendance, email zsparg@corejewelleryquarter.academy



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OPPORTUNITY— CCF Camp

On Monday 21st February, Jewellery Quarter Academy's Royal Air Force Cadets attending a 4-day activity camp along with Rockwood and Arena Academy Army cadets and also cadets from Warwickshire and West Midlands (SS) Army Cadet Force.

The cadets were split up into four groups and each group did different activity each day ranging from Skill at Arms, Shooting, Fieldcraft, Mountain bikes, Stem activity, First Aid and Command tasks.

On Wednesday night the staff and cadets sat down to a three-course meal with our special guests, Cdt Leo Owusu and Cdt Alisha Ahmed, who were both promoted to LCpl.



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OPPORTUNITY— Central St Michael's

On Thursday 10th February, 40 of our Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit Central Saint Michael's Sixth Form College for a sixth form taster day. Whilst there, students were able to take part in sessions that will give them a taste of what sixth form is like, in preparation for life beyond JQA.

The students were greeted by the Principal of the college, then given a guided tour of the college by some friendly sixth form student volunteers. Students also part in two interesting and informative sessions. One focused on forensics and law, and the other was a demonstration of some of the technology and robotics used in the college's Fablab.



OPPORTUNITY—CORE Character Extra Activities

CORE Character Extra Curricular got off to a fantastic start this week and we have added Homework Clubs for students who need a space to complete assigned work.

These take place in IT rooms for KS3 and KS4 respectively.

[You can find the CORE Character Extra Curricular timetable on our website.](#)

 CORE Character EXTRA sessions Timetable 					
Year	Monday	Tuesday	After school 15:10 - 16:10 Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7	Football (raised deck) - MMO Design Technology - Room 115 Music - Room 208/209	Design Technology - Room 116 CoachBright (invited students)	Reading club - Room 104	Netball (Quad) - MSE Art and Design - Room 216	Design Technology - Room 116 (First Friday of every month)
8	Football (raised deck) - MMO Design Technology - Room 115 Music - Room 208/209	Design Technology - Room 116 CoachBright (invited students)	Reading club - Room 104	Netball (Quad) - MSE	Design Technology - Room 116 (First Friday of every month)
9	Netball (Quad) - MSE Music - Room 208/209	Basketball (Quad) - MTU	Reading club - Room 104 CoachBright (invited students)	Football (raised deck) - MMO Design Technology - Room 116	
10	Netball (Quad) - MSE	Basketball (Quad) - MTU	Reading club - Room 104	Football (raised deck) - MMO CoachBright (invited students)	
11	Art and Design Year 11 Master Class - Room 216 Geography - Room 106 DT Coursework Catchup - Room 115			Art and Design Year 11 Master Class - Room 217 Career Enrichment - Room 110 CoachBright (invited students)	
All years	Art and Design Photography - Room 217 Drama - Studio Room 212 Homework Club KS3 - Room 107 Homework Club KS4 - Room 303	Dance (REC Room) - RMU Debate Mate - Room 110 Poetry Classes - Room 211 Homework Club KS3 - Room 107 Homework Club KS4 - Room 303	Gym and fitness (GYM) - LFR Homework Club KS3 - Room 107 Homework Club KS4 - Room 303	Chess Club - Room 102 Homework Club KS3 - Room 107 Homework Club KS4 - Room 303	Art and Design Textiles - Room 217

RESPECT— Police Partnership

On Thursday 17th February, we welcomed our local neighbourhood police team to JQA. The team led by PC Blomer assisted our team of staff with work to continue to ensure our school remains a safe place.

At JQA, we regularly hold unannounced 'knife arches', working in close partnership with our local police, to ensure that our site is a safe place for all students and staff and to reiterate the message that we have a zero-tolerance stance on knives and weapons. All of Year 9 students took part in the knife arch and we are happy to report that, as expected, no weapons were found during this operation.

In addition to the knife arch we also carried out a routine drugs operation, in collaboration with our local neighbourhood police team.

The team included the amazing Lucky, a springer spaniel, who has been trained as a drugs detection dog.

Drug detection dogs, like Lucky can cover a lot of area very quickly. It would take human officers 10 times as long to search the same area, and they'd still never find everything a dog can sniff out.

A sniffer dog's nose has been finely tuned to be particularly sensitive to particular substances including illegal drugs.

A thorough search was conducted in all areas of our and we are pleased to report, as expected, that no drugs were found. We will never be complacent to ensuring our school remains drugs and weapons-free.



RESPECT— Ukraine

In our Respect form time session this week, students have been learning more about the ongoing crisis and conflict taking place in Ukraine. Students were given an insight into why the conflict has arisen, as well as some of the historical background and context of the nations involved. Our students showed great empathy with those suffering in this crisis and were encouraged to talk to a trusted adult if they had any concerns, anxieties or fears regarding the situation.

We remind all students that if they are concerned about anything, they can approach any adult or use our [Sharp System](#).



Respect

Thinking questions: What do you already know about the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia?

Turn to pg132 of your planner, use pen and paper or the meeting chat

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Planner and equipment on desk please to be READY



RESPECT



RESPECT— Year 6 Friendship Evening

On Thursday, 3rd March we welcomed prospective students - who will be joining us in September - with their families to 'Friendship Evening'.

At the evening, families heard about the journey JQA has been on, how we support our students to be successful, and the Academy's ambition for the future. Families were treated to a performance from students involved in COREUs and student leaders were on hand to answer any questions families had.

Friendship Evening was well attended, and it was fantastic to meet future JQA students and their families over coffee and cake, prepared by the catering team.



EXCELLENCE AT JQA—Homework

The Jewellery Quarter Academy Homework Policy has been designed to be a key part of our relentless pursuit of academic excellence.

Homework enhances students learning, improves achievement, offers additional curriculum time and develops study skills, which make it an integral part of the learning process.

Homework at Jewellery Quarter Academy will be used:

- To prepare for new learning.
- To consolidate the learning that has taken place during a lesson, giving you the opportunity to practice and refine particular aspects of your knowledge, and understanding.
- To stretch knowledge and understanding beyond the curriculum.

All our KS4 students will be required to do a minimum of 90 minutes of written homework per night and a maximum of 120 minutes. For KS3 students, it will be a minimum of 60 minutes written homework and a maximum of 90 minutes.

All students will be expected to complete a daily entry in their homework exercise book, which will be issued to all students by form tutors. All homework tasks will be set by classroom teachers.

Students' homework exercise books will be checked by their classroom teacher and those who have gone above and beyond with their homework will be rewarded with a merit sticker.

Students who fail to complete homework, or whose homework is not completed to a passing standard, will receive a 'H' in their planner and if they are given 3 'H' stamps in a week, then they will be issued with a C60 by their form tutor to support them further.

If a student loses their homework exercise book then they will be required to buy a new one at a cost of £1 and will receive coaching from their tutor on managing and organising themselves – a key character trait.

All homework tasks will either be:

- Reading with comprehension questions
- Recap quizzes
- Essay Writing/Extended Writing

We also have a range of activities families can do together to test students on key knowledge or concepts in our **Home Learning Collaboration** documents.

These can be found on the Home Learning sections of our Piota app.

All these activities link to learning students are currently doing in the classroom in different subjects and we encourage parents/carers to use these to further reinforce learning with additional activities and conversations around key topics.



EXCELLENCE AT JQA—KS3 Homework Timetable

Year 7 Homework Timetable				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7MMO Drama 7MMO Music 7KBR Music 7KBR IT 7KBR History 7CWI Music 7CWI IT 7FKH DT 7FKH History 7FKH Art 7ZKH RE	7MMO History 7MMO Geography 7KBR RE 7CWI RE 7CWI MFL 7FKH Geography 7ZKH Geography 7ZKH IT	English (All Year 7) 7MMO Art 7KBR DT 7KBR Art 7CWI DT 7FKH Music 7ZKH Music 7ZKH MFL	Science (All Year 7) 7MMO RE 7KBR Music 7CWI History 7FKH IT 7ZKH History 7ZKH Drama	Mathematics (All Year 7) 7MMO Drama 7MMO IT 7KBR Geography 7KBR MFL 7CWI Art 7CWI Music 7FKH Drama 7FKH MFL 7ZKH Art

Year 8 Homework Timetable				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English (All Year 8) 8C RE 8O Drama 8O Music 8R Drama 8E Music 8E Geography 8E MFL 8D RE 8D Art	Science (All Year 8) 8C Geography 8C IT 8O DT 8O IT 8R Music	8C History 8C MFL 8O History 8O Art 8R Geography 8E RE 8E DT 8D IT	8C Art 8C DT 8O RE 8R MFL 8R History 8R DT 8E History 8E IT 8D MFL 8D Music 8D Drama	Mathematics (All Year 8) 8C Drama 8C Music 8O Geography 8O MFL 8O Art 8R RE 8R Art 8E Drama 8D DT 8D Geography

Year 9 Homework Timetable				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English (All Year 9) 9O Geography 9R Geography 9R Drama 9D Geography 9D DT	9C IT 9C RE 9C MFL 9O Music 9O DT 9R Music 9R MFL 9E IT 9E MFL 9E Geography 9D Music 9D Art	Science (All Year 9) 9C Geography 9O Drama 9O RE 9R RE 9R DT 9E History 9E Art 9D RE 9D MFL	9C Drama 9C Music 9C DT 9C History 9O Art 9O MFL 9R IT 9R Art 9E Music 9E Drama 9D Drama	Mathematics (All Year 9) 9C Art 9O History 9R History 9E DT 9E RE 9D History 9D IT

EXCELLENCE AT JQA—KS4 Homework Timetable

Year 10 Homework Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10A Music 10A Business Studies 10B Business Studies 10A Health & Social Care 10B Health & Social Care 10 Art	Science (All Year 10) 10B Performing Arts 10B DT	Mathematics (All Year 10) 10 1 Geography 10 2 Geography 10A Sports Studies	English (All Year 10)	10B IT 10B MFL 10 1 History 10 2 History 10 3 History

Year 11 Homework Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Science (All Year 11) 11B Business Studies 11A IT 11A Creative iMedia 11B Creative iMedia 11A Health & Social Care 11 Art	11C Music 11C Business Studies 11C DT 11C Sports Studies 11C Health & Social Care 11 1 Geography 11 2 Geography	English (All Year 11) 11B Performing Arts 11B RE	Mathematics (All Year 11) 11A RE	11 1 History 11 2 History 11 3 History 11C1 MFL

All homework timetables and our policy can be found at:

<https://www.corejewelleryquarter.academy/curriculum/homework/>



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EXCELLENCE AT JQA—Young Writers 2022

A fabulous start to the new school term with some of our students taking part in the Young Writers competition.

Congratulations to the following students who were chosen to be published authors in the Twisted Tales series:

- Damilola Adebisi
- Zainum Shamrez
- Oluwaseyi Esosuaipo
- Ishan Servaes
- Scott Humphrey
- Adrian Posinika

Well done to all of our newest JQA authors!



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EXCELLENCE AT JQA— U13 Football Success

On the final day of the half term, JQA travelled to Aston Manor to compete for a place in the semi final of the ESSFA Under 13 Aston Cup.

After a slow start, with little in terms of goal mouth action, Aston Manor took the lead with a speculative effort from distance which found its way past the JQA keeper.

The boys in gold soon trailed 1-0 at the break, despite playing the better football in the first half.

It took a matter of two seconds half minutes for JQA to pull level, through captain Mo, who's vicious strike proved too strong for the home keeper.

This was a sign of things to come, with JQA now in the ascendancy, the goals started to flow. Two further goals from Mo completed his hat trick and set up a comfortable final ten minutes.

Two late goals from Adamu and Salih added gloss to the score line that the performance on the pitch merited. The boys in gold await the winner of Cardinal Wiseman versus St John Wall in March's semi final.

Final Score: Aston Manor 1-5 JQA"



EXCELLENCE AT JQA—Hot Choc Friday

Excellence is a habit and to paraphrase Aristotle brilliance comes from consistently doing the right things. At JQA, we reward excellence and encourage all our students to do the right things because we are what we repeatedly do, and we want all our students to be excellent.

Every fortnight on a Friday, Mr Barton invites to the 4 highest merit earners across the Academy, to enjoy a Costa Hot Chocolate and Millionaire Shortbread snack.

This week, Mr Barton welcomed Jada, Vanessa, Alaa and Ibrahim into his office this week for a chat and a hot chocolate, these students consistently go above and beyond in their studies and are the standard that the rest of the school must aspire to.

They spoke about the lessons they enjoy at the Academy and their ideas to continue to improve the Academy for all students.



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WHO TO CONTACT AT JQA

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education or time at Jewellery Quarter Academy we can ask that you contact the Head of Year for your child in the first instance.

The most effective way to do this is via email.

Please don't always expect an immediate response as all teachers have very busy timetables, but we will endeavour to reply the same day. The contact emails for each Head of Year are listed here.

Year 7 Miss F Clarke: fclarke@corejewelleryquarter.academy

Year 8 Miss M Seleshe: mseleshe@corejewelleryquarter.academy

Year 9 Miss H Fashina: hfashina@corejewelleryquarter.academy

Year 10 Miss R Murray rmurray@corejewelleryquarter.academy

Year 11 Miss S Ivey: sivey@corejewelleryquarter.academy



If you would like to contact the Safeguarding/SEND team, email safeguarding@corejewelleryquarter.academy

If you have an urgent safeguarding issue, you can call our Designated Safeguarding Lead on 07823354044



Miss Clarke



Miss Seleshe



Miss Fashina



Miss Murray



Miss Ivey

STAYING IN TOUCH WITH JQA

Academy Voicemail

We recently changed our phone system after feedback from parents/carers to include the facility to leave a message if lines are busy.

You now have the option to leave a voice message on the Academy Voicemail by pressing Option 2 in office hours and out of office hours too– this is checked twice a day at 8am and 12pm.

Please be sure to state your child's name clearly and who the message is for and one of Team JQA will get back to you.



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