

## Always Ambitious

Relentless is an important quality for leaders at JQA: we are constantly striving to develop our provision to be the best it can be for our students. They deserve the best.

It has been a wonderful first week back with students working together with staff to practise the one-way system around the Academy. This is designed to make the most of learning time. Students travel around the Academy and follow their timetable, the arrows and the flow of other students, moving as one.

The recent Opportunity Day was a fantastic example of the range of different things on offer at JQA. In this edition too, you'll find new partnerships such as the British Academy of Jewellery, who we work with to give students a glimpse into the trades that make up our heritage and possibly their future through local apprenticeships. Also, we are pleased to launch Debate Ma-te—which we hope will continue to support our students to use their voices powerfully to speak out and stand up for what they believe in.

We are very much looking forward to respectfully observing Remembrance Week together next week with assemblies and JQA students, as part of our CCF, laying the wreath of poppies at [Warstone Lane War Memorial](#).

Many parents and carers have asked me about homework since I took up post—it seems to be the eternal question. We are delighted to now not just offer a [full timetable of homework](#) but also, through our app, chances for parents to get actively involved in developing their child's knowledge in topics they are learning in class. This is carefully planned to link up with the learning that is taking place in classrooms and also gives great ideas for activities to do as a family to build interest and curiosity.

**Mr J Barton—Head of School**

## 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/>

**8th November** —Remembrance Week

**15th November** —Anti-Bullying Week

**19th November** —Year 11 Mock Exams begin

**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](mailto:enquiry@corejewelleryquarter.academy)

[www.corejewelleryquarter.academy](http://www.corejewelleryquarter.academy)

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

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

# COLLABORATION—TikTok Videos

You may have heard about a dangerous and worrying national trend where TikTok accounts are created, claiming to be the school, using the school's logo and name and then posting fraudulent (fake) and offensive videos about staff.

This can have a serious impact on a person's mental health and well-being and not only their reputation but also their family too.

Thank you to those students who have reported different incidents to members of staff so far, this has been extremely helpful in our investigations and we will pass all information on to the police.

**We encourage all parents and carers to not only speak to their child but check their social media accounts for any illegal activity.**

Below are some examples of inappropriate social media use:

- Creating and sharing videos without consent;
- Creating and sharing images without consent;
- Sending or forwarding videos and images without permission;
- Using brands and logos that you don't have ownership of or consent to use;
- Cyberbullying
- Making false accusations about someone using social media
- Using the account details of others or somebody's personal details to make accounts.



**We cannot stress how serious this is and not only could it threaten a student's place a JQA but could lead to them having a criminal record.**



# COLLABORATION—Debate Mate

Debate Mate is coming to JQA.

Do you want the chance to learn how to argue, persuade and discuss? Do you want to challenge ideas, compete in regional and national competitions whilst developing skills that will stick with you for life?

If the answer is 'yes.' then Debate Mate is for you.

Every Tuesday after-school Mr Soud will be working with students from the University of Birmingham to run Debate Mate in room 110.

Everyone from Year 7-10 can come and no previous experience required.

We look forward to developing students into confident speakers who can use their voice as a powerful tool for change.



# COLLABORATION—New One Way System

From 1st November, we have given students the chance to go back to some sense of normality by going to lessons and following a carefully designed one way system across and around the Academy.

Our corridors are quite narrow and this has enabled students to follow the flow and move without congestion.

Students have been issued with a map and were given opportunities to practise moving from one room to another purposefully and quickly, following the shortest path on Monday last week.

As ever, our students have risen to this challenge and we are pleased with the start they have made.



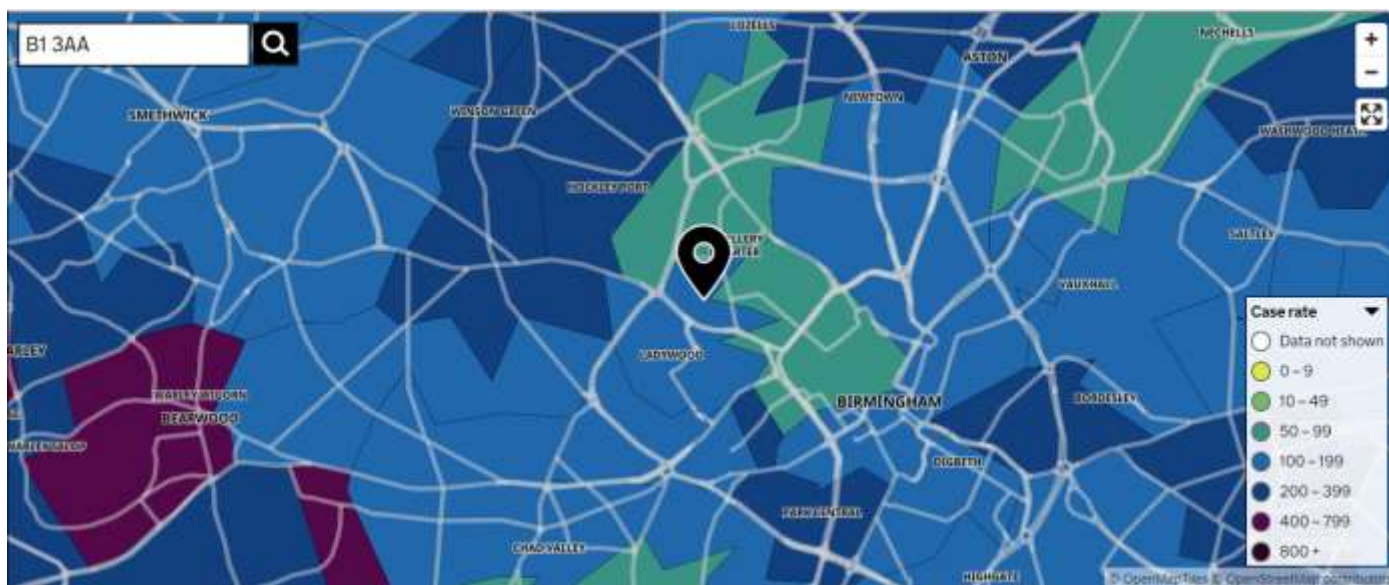


# COLLABORATION—Continuing to Combat Covid 19

We hope you and your family are safe and well. Whilst the government has relaxed restrictions, we have kept some measures in place for everyone's safety and are ready to put further measures in place, if necessary.

We must remain vigilant as a community as the Autumn term continues; the transmission rates in the six local wards to JQA are reviewed weekly, with cases in school reviewed daily. We have published an Outbreak Management Plan on our website, and we will communicate with you on a Friday, should we need to put additional measures in place for the next week.

One of the biggest weapons against the spread of the virus, and its variants, is regular testing. We test at home now and students are regularly issued with lateral flow test kits. We test each Wednesday and Sunday. Texts and app alerts act as reminders to students, and we appreciate your ongoing support with this. Cases remain low locally (see below).



You can find out about our approaches to testing at home [here](#).

## Reporting Results of Tests

No matter whether your child's result is negative or positive, it needs to be reported in two ways:

Firstly, log it with the gov website at: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Secondly, inform JQA at: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=B5YBHI7oJEgzKU6mNYU9WAaZDuercVBn0a0Bt-LfvtUQ0hLRzINUjJVUxKTfFoxQlhMOFhMR0pCRC4u&wdLOR=c18B82C19-82D4-44BE-9590-86A18F30A6C1>

It is crucial that we continue to work together to ensure we can stay in track to return to the things we once took for granted.

## Vaccinations

As a community, we strongly urge everyone to 'have the jab'. Many staff at JQA have recently had the vaccine and we are glad that they have, as unvaccinated people are more likely to be hospitalised by the virus.



# 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 2.**

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 by Year Group (18th October—5th November)

Year 7: **91.23%**

Year 8: **90.21%**

Year 9: **92.97%**

Year 10: **92.48%**

Year 11: **91.67%**

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 [khinz@corejewelleryquarter.academy](mailto:khinz@corejewelleryquarter.academy)



# OPPORTUNITY— Opportunity Day

One of our key values at JQA is 'Opportunity' and on Tuesday 2nd November every single student at our was involved in a series of activities and workshops designed to offer them the chance to do something that would make them a better person and a better student. From archery, to skiing, to constructing a bridge, to listening to world-renowned lawyers offer them advice and guidance, every single student was given the opportunity to do something amazing.





# OPPORTUNITY— Year 7

The Year 7 Opportunity Day was filled with fun and exciting activities, which Y7 took part in across the day. We had team building and strategy games which linked to Engineering through bridge construction. Students learnt the shapes used in structures which produce the strongest bridges and used this knowledge to plan, design and then build their bridge using paper. Students also took part in an archery competition where they had to show control and a steady hand when shooting arrows at a target. Students demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship whilst competing against one another and enjoyed all the activity immensely. Year 7 also had the opportunity to take part in a series of STEM exercises and had the opportunity to use some top of the range equipment and technology. Students were given the task of creating a tower that utilised a pulley system, which required students to reflect on previous study and work together in teams to create a system which worked. Effectively Students not only learnt about the importance of design, planning and engineering, but they also learnt how to work as a team through collaboration while experiencing something they may never had before.





## OPPORTUNITY—Year 8

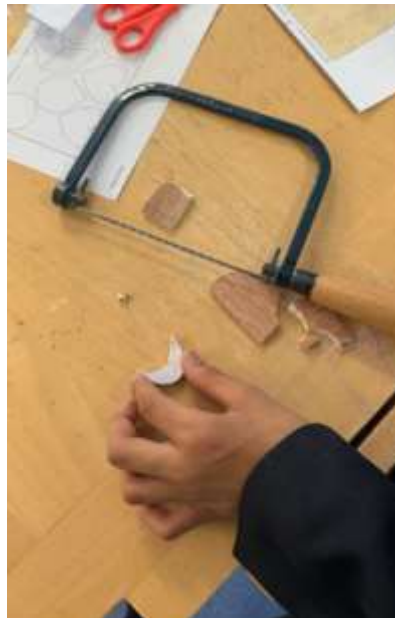
For our first Opportunity Day of this academic year, Year 8 students went to Ackers Adventure and took part in a series of outdoor activities. The weather was thankfully on our side which provided optimal conditions for students to put their map reading skills to the test during orienteering, where groups raced against each other to find letters that spelt out a 'magic word'. Student's accuracy skills were challenged somewhat during disc golf, where students had to navigate a nine-basket course with some perplexing shots that required inconceivable skill. The day centred around overcoming fear, as students scaled new heights in rock climbing; tried to maintain some poise and grace in skiing or developing hidden talents in archery that would make Robin Hood quiver. Overall, the Year 8 Opportunity Day was an incredibly joyous day for all involved, as staff and students encouraged each other whilst testing their nerve to overcome new and sometimes daunting challenges.



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## OPPORTUNITY—Year 9

On our first opportunity day this academic year, Year 9 were able to discover different interests and embrace everything JQA had to offer through different taster sessions. In PE, pupils worked on creating moulds of different body types, which were a result of different diets. In French, pupils immersed themselves in language learning the benefits of being bilingual and the a wider job opportunities speaking a second language opened them up to. Students were also able to see which careers they could pursue in the performance industry with a Drama qualification. Business workshops allowed the pupils to showcase their inner entrepreneur as they played the roles of brand managers and project coordinators by created their own cereal brands and then pitching their ideas to Mrs Bains and the rest of the class. Design Technology sessions allowed students to embrace the construction industry as they were all able to create a keyring out of wood and metal using skills they'd developed across the day. The whole day was a resounding success and challenged our Year 9 students to open their minds to the endless possibilities available to them when they make their options selections in Year 9.





# OPPORTUNITY—Year 10

For Opportunity Day our Year 10s had a catalogue of sessions which were incorporated into the school day. The focus of the day was 'life after JQA', where students were able to complete some productive activities such as CV writing and planning a covering letter - which will help them when applying to colleges, sixth forms, apprenticeships and universities. Students demonstrated a real sense of initiative throughout the day and were brilliant at listing the personal skills and strengths which will make them attractive to employers and education providers.

Whilst focusing on our students becoming empowered to gain employment after leaving school, we also had external visitors, from the University of Birmingham and Newman University, who gave phenomenal talks on life at university and the opportunities and life chances that come with studying at undergraduate level. It was truly a pleasure to see our young people asking some great questions and going above and beyond to impress the lecturers that attended our school. Overall, the day was a true success and we cannot wait to see what happens on the next opportunity day!



# OPPORTUNITY—Year 11

Tuesday 2nd November marked an incredible experience for our Year 11's with their first Opportunity Day of the school year. Year 11 worked with an external company, Elevate, who gave pupils tips and strategies on how to revise and ensure they are ready for their upcoming mock exams. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive from our Year 11 cohort, with many of them stating they have gained practical ideas that would aid them in their revision process, which will hopefully lead to some life-changing outcomes. The rest of the day was spent in sessions with the NHS, Gordon Franks Training and Cadbury College, who gave pupils insights into how to apply for apprenticeships and colleges courses. A select group of pupils opted to take part in a special Law workshop which was incredibly informative for those wanting to go on and study law in the future. Overall, it was an incredibly successful day and the pupils gained so much information, which will equip them for some of the challenges that lie ahead. Also, a big thank you to all the external providers who had nothing but praise for the attitude and conduct of our pupils.





# OPPORTUNITY—British Academy of Jewellery

GCSE DT students were given the opportunity to take part in a metal workshop before half term at the British Academy of Jewellery, located at Birmingham Assay Office in our very own, Jewellery Quarter.

Students had the chance to visit the esteemed school to learn jewellery-making techniques and pathway options in further education. The Assay Office is a prestigious part of the Jewellery Quarter in testing and certifying precious metals and it is important that students have the chance to connect with the local community. The day began with a talk around diplomas and apprenticeships, followed by a design challenge and then into the workshop.

The workshop was the highlight for the students in which they made their own keyring using a range of machines and techniques including drilling, rolling, carving, filing and stamping different metals. You can see from their creations how valuable this experience was in gaining skills for their course and life after JQA.



# OPPORTUNITY—CORE Character Activities

CORE Character Extra Curriculum got off to a fantastic start during the first Autumn term with students offered the opportunity to take part in a number of sporting clubs after school. These clubs not only help our students to build upon their CORE character traits but help to support students in their studies within PE and other subjects.

Football at Key Stage 4 was one of our many successes, with over 50 students from Year 9 and 10 staying after school on the final day of the first Autumn Term. It was great to see a number of staff involved too!

[A reminder that our timetable of after school sessions can be found on our website](#), on displays around the school and in this newsletter.



# RESPECT—Diwali

At JQA, we believe it is important that we celebrate occasions from different religions and backgrounds, we serve a diverse community and it is vital that everyone feels respected and heard. This week our students learnt about Diwali, the festival of lights. During this time, lights are lit around the homes to remember the important message, that light can always overcome darkness. Diwali is celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs across the world. The festival celebrates good over evil, light over darkness. Diwali is held on the darkest days in the months of October/November, and this year Diwali was celebrated on the 4th November. There are many ways that Diwali is celebrated, such as fireworks, lots of cooking and eating, visiting family and friends and being charitable. From all the staff at JQA, we wish you and your family a Happy Diwali.





# RESPECT—Heritage Week

From the week commencing Monday 13th of September, Birmingham celebrated its own Heritage Week. During this week, some groups of students had the Opportunity to take part in fascinating and informative sessions run by the Quartermasters, a maker collective showcasing the work of artisans, designers and makers in the Jewellery Quarter. The theme for this week was 'spotlight on Albion Street', which focused on showcasing the history and cultural heritage of the very street on which our Academy can be found.

Before half term, a class of Year 9 students had the Opportunity to take part in a creative workshop run by the Quartermasters, where they were able to design and assemble diamonds using cardboard and craft materials. This reflected the unique heritage and history of the Jewellery Quarter as a place where many fine pieces of Jewellery have been crafted over the years. We also look forward to more creative workshop sessions over the coming weeks, with other year groups getting involved.





# 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.



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# 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—Art

This term, Year 10 have been learning how to use acrylic paint and blend colours in their 'Identity Project'. They have been studying the work of artist Terry Bradley and have produced highly sophisticated paintings of the artist's work, which seek to reproduce his unique style of painting.



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# EXCELLENCE AT JQA—DT

Students in Miss Brasier's core extra session group have been extending their learning, beyond classroom time in their weekly after-school sessions. Students have been refining their sewing skills to create beautiful cushions inspired by their own drawings and artwork.

This new addition to the curriculum reflects our proud history of the JQ being a centre for design.



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## EXCELLENCE AT JQA—Guided Reading

One of the greatest gifts a person can have is the ability to read well. At JQA, we believe it is essential that all our students develop a love of reading and to this end we have increased the amount of form time reading across the school.

All Year 7-10 students read for an hour a week in form time, which equates to three sessions per week. Research shows the clear correlation between the amount students read and their success in their qualifications., we hope that this increase in reading time will aid our students and help them become life long readers.

Shortly, our new library will be completed and this will give students the chance to pick up a book anytime they want, with Little Libraries also installed in different areas of the Academy.





# EXCELLENCE AT JQA—Self Organisation

At JQA, we work on developing 12 character traits. One of these, in the Excellence value, is about self-organisation.

During the pandemic, students remained in one room for the vast majority of their time at the Academy.

Now with the new timetables being issued and one-way system, students are expected to be organised and know where they are going, using their timetable in their planner.

It is important students take all their belongings with them when moving from lesson to lesson or after break or lunch.

Self organisation is a vital aspect of Excellence at JQA. In order to ensure that we are well organised for our day, it is a good idea for students to spend some the night before school getting ready or the following day. This could be ensuring they have the correct uniform ready, that their planner, equipment, PE kit are in their bag and that any homework that needs to be submitted has been completed.

Self organisation is not only important now, but is also a vital life skill that students will need in their life beyond JQA and in the world of work.



# EXCELLENCE AT JQA—Hot Choc Friday

Rewards are so important to us at JQA. Later this term, we look forward to a 'non uniform day' for qualifying students and also the 'Form of The Term' prizes being awarded.

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 saw Mohammed, Sahil, Mumen and Miad join him and we encourage all students to log their merits so they can enjoy rewards and earn prizes from the Academy Reward Shop.

They spoke about the lessons they enjoy at the Academy and the new staff that have joined who they very much appreciate.

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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 can we 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](mailto:fclarke@corejewelleryquarter.academy)

Year 8 Miss M Seleshe: [mseleshe@corejewelleryquarter.academy](mailto:mseleshe@corejewelleryquarter.academy)

Year 9 Miss H Fashina: [hfashina@corejewelleryquarter.academy](mailto:hfashina@corejewelleryquarter.academy)

Year 10 Mr C Kyffin: [ckyffin@corejewelleryquarter.academy](mailto:ckyffin@corejewelleryquarter.academy)

Year 11 Miss S Ivey: [sivey@corejewelleryquarter.academy](mailto:sivey@corejewelleryquarter.academy)



If you would like to contact the Well-Being team, email [safeguarding@jewelleryquarter.academy](mailto:safeguarding@jewelleryquarter.academy)

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



Miss Clarke



Miss Seleshe



Miss Fashina



Mr Kyffin



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 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



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