



**JEWELLERY  
QUARTER**  
ACADEMY

# NEWSLETTER

17th September 2021

Proudly sponsored by **CORE** Education Trust

## Welcome Back!

What a pleasure it has been to welcome our wonderful students back to the Academy—and to give a warm welcome to our Year 7 students! For many of our students it's been the first opportunity to do practical subjects in studios and workshops and it's a joy to see our students looking so smart in their new blazers, producing their best work in their new books and settling back into our routines quickly.

I'd like to thank you for your ongoing support: we succeed by working as a team and our [Family Handbook](#) acts as a guide to supporting your child at JQA. Parents have given us fantastic feedback in Summer and students have spoken highly of the quality of learning the newest members of our team are giving them.

We are about to launch our expanded Extra-Curricular programme called CORE Character Extra (more news next edition) and it has been lovely to see students engaging in 'Heritage Week' activities with assemblies from a local artisan this week. It was a privilege to award 'Diamond' badges to students who have displayed CORE characteristics last term too, this week.

Respect is central to all we do at JQA. We have refined our behaviour procedures to ensure any child who breaks our clear Code of Conduct receives valuable coaching from their pastoral staff. We expect all parents/carers to support this to develop our children to be the best learners and versions of themselves.

Excellence is expected here: only the neatest, high-quality work will do and I've been struck by the high standards of presentation our students have set for themselves from the start, led by our staff. Only the best will do. I'm very much looking forward to meeting Year 11 Parents and Carers at our Information Evening next Thursday.

**Mr J Barton—Head of School**

## Our Shared Mission and Values:

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 giving 100% in everything that we do

## COMING UP...

Our Events calendar is online at  
[www.jewelleryquarter.academy/events](http://www.jewelleryquarter.academy/events)

Monday 17th Sept: **Student Parliament** elections begin

Thursday 23rd Sept: **Year 11 Information Evening** (p2)

Monday 4th October: **Open Week Begins**

Wednesday 6th October: **Open Evening**

**Jewellery  
Quarter Academy**

St George's Court  
1 Albion Street  
Birmingham

tel: 0121 729 7220 between 8am and 4pm

email: [enquiry@corejewelleryquarter.academy](mailto:enquiry@corejewelleryquarter.academy)

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

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

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

# Year 11 Information Evening

We would like to invite you to come along to our Year 11 Information Evening on Thursday 23rd September 4.30pm -6.30pm.

This is an opportunity for you to learn about our planned journey for the year, get information on revision resources and meet Further Education providers that your child might like to apply for in December and January.

We hope that you can all attend and look forward to seeing you there.

**Ms S Ivey—Head of Year 11**



# Attendance Matters

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

**We do not accept poor attendance as students that aren't at school are not learning.**

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' (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%.**

Please see the below letter: <https://www.jewelleryquarter.academy/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Attendance-Letter-Website-App.pdf>



## Attendance by Year Group (6/9/21—17/9/21):

Year 7: 96.7%

Year 8: 87.1%

Year 9: 89.1%

Year 10: 90.8%

Year 11: 96.0%

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



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# 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 for safety and are ready to put in place additional measures if required.

We must remain vigilant as a community as the Autumn Term continues: the transmission rates in the 6 local wards to JQA are reviewed weekly with cases in school reviewed daily. We have published an [Out-break Management Plan](#) on our website and 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 support with this.

You can find out about our approaches to testing at home here:

<https://www.jewelleryquarter.academy/covid-19-testing-at-jqa/>

## Reporting Results of Tests

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

*Log it with the govt website at:* <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

*Inform JQA of the result:* <https://tinyurl.com/JQAtestathome>

It is important we continue to work together to ensure we can stay on track to return to the things we once took for granted.

## Vaccinations

As a community, we strongly urge all to 'have the jab'. Many staff at Jewellery Quarter Academy have recently had the vaccine. Unvaccinated adults are more likely to be hospitalised by the virus.

You may have heard in the news that the government has recommended all children between 12 and 15 to have the 'jab' and Mr Barton has written a letter about this which is below:

<https://www.jewelleryquarter.academy/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Covid19VaccineLetter.pdf>



# OPPORTUNITY–The Equiano Centre

Very soon, the new school library, the Equiano Centre, will be opening at JQA. The library is named in honour of Olaudah Equiano, a writer and abolitionist, whose autobiography, 'The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, told of the true horrors of slavery. His words and works changed the world.

Equiano's book became a bestseller and helped gain passage of the British Slave Trade Act in 1807, but Equiano would not have been able to write his book without a love and appreciation of the written word.

Students spent time learning about the fascinating life of Equiano, they learnt how millions of Africans were transported across the Atlantic and sold into slavery but how very few had the chance to describe their experience to the world.

Equiano was born into a wealthy West African family in 1745. His family lived far from the sea, in an area now part of Nigeria. When he was eleven, Equiano was captured by African slave traders.

Equiano found himself on the Africa's Atlantic coast for the first time in his life. There he saw a slave ship anchored offshore.

He had no idea what lay ahead. No Africans had ever returned from the Americas to tell of their fate. Under his new owner, Pascal, Equiano learned to be a sailor. He spent much time in England, where he managed to educate himself. Equiano became a public speaker in his adopted home of England and in 1789, he wrote his autobiography, which was an immediate best seller and soon Equiano became England's leading spokesperson for blacks and the abolition of slavery.

Our new library will help transform the lives of our students and we open it with the words of American journalist, Carl Rowan, ringing in our ears, "The library is the temple of learning and learning has liberated more people than all the wars in history."





# OPPORTUNITY–Afghanistan

At JQA, we want all our students to be the best citizens they can be, so ultimately they can make the world a better place to be. We think it is vital that they understand the world around them and so this week, they have been learning about the conflict in Afghanistan.

Even our Year 11 students weren't alive in 2001, when the 9/11 attacks took place, so we felt it was important that students gained a comprehensive overview of who the Taliban are and why there is currently such violent turmoil in Afghanistan.

This week, students learnt about The Taliban and their emergence in the early 1990s in northern Pakistan following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

They were introduced to the initial promises made by the Taliban: to restore peace and security and to govern under the rules of Sharia, or Islamic law, once in power.

Students explored what life was like in Afghanistan under Taliban rule and the reasons why there is current concern for the rights of women in Afghanistan under Taliban rule.

Finally, students studied what it is like to be a refugee from Afghanistan. We want all our students to be kind and empathetic individuals and so, we felt it was vital that they understood the suffering of thousands of refugee children, who were no older than themselves, but who were currently going through horrific turmoil, through no fault of their own.

20,000 Afghan refugees will be welcomed to the UK where they will be provided with sanctuary from the Taliban regime.

At JQA, we are proud that we will be welcoming some of these refugees into our school community. We want all our students to welcome them to our school and to show them what it means to be a student at JQA. They have had to leave everything they know and love behind, so it is up to us to show them the compassion and respect they deserve.



**What is happening now in Afghanistan?**



**Video to watch:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vs05z1rG9Z0>

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**Who are the Taliban?**

The Taliban, or "students" in the Pashtic language, emerged in the early 1990s in northern Pakistan following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

The promise made by the Taliban - in Pashtun areas straddling Pakistan and Afghanistan - was to restore peace and security and to govern under the rules of Sharia, or Islamic law, once in power



**WHO ARE THE TALIBAN?**



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# RESPECT–World Afro Day

On the 15th September, we celebrated 'World Afro Day,' a day to celebrate coiled or curly hair.

Students were encouraged to celebrate kinky, coiled, or curly afro textured hair and to learn more about its various styles and history.

Michelle De Leon is the founder of 'World Afro Day' and believes that there are not enough examples of natural afro textured hair being celebrated in the mainstream media.

She wanted her daughter and other children around the world to grow up seeing more examples of people with hair like their own, and for people without afro hair to understand more about it.

Students learnt about the many ways to wear natural afro hair that can help protect it, including cornrows, braids and weaves.

The aim of 'World Afro Day' is to give people with afro hair the confidence to wear it the way they like, so that they don't feel pressure to hide or change it.

At JQA, we are proud to celebrate students' individual identity.



## World Afro Day: A day to celebrate coiled or curly hair

There are many ways to wear natural afro hair that can help protect it.

Cornrows, braids, and weaves are known as protective styles and they help to tuck the hair away to protect it from breakage while it grows.

Cornrows are an ancient African tradition that involves plaiting the hair very close to the scalp. This can sometimes look like rows of corn, which is how cornrows got their name.

Braids often involve plaiting hair made of acrylic and other materials into the hair, while weaves involve first cornrowing the hair, then sewing human or artificial hair on to the plaits.



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# RESPECT–Coaching for Character

We have a very clear 'Code of Conduct' for our students with 3 simple rules: **Ready, Respectful, Safe.**

These apply everywhere in the academy and outside: in classrooms, corridors, the canteen and in our community.

Students, as children, will inevitably make mistakes...but every mistake is an opportunity to learn! Our C20s and C60s are an opportunity for just that—coaching.

We see no value in 'detentions' - with the adult and student sitting in silence, wasting everyone's time.

Instead, we offer coaching around our clear rules and developing students' character (more on p13) so they develop as learners. Pastoral staff will lead these conversations—some may take less than 20 minutes and may take less than 1 hour: it depends on how well the student engages with the process. We take coaching very seriously as we only develop by taking on new challenges.

Our [Code of Conduct for students](#) is displayed (right) around the Academy along with our Routines for Respect.

We would like to thank all parents/carers for returning their Home School Collaboration Agreements and would remind parents/carers of their responsibilities as per the [Parent Code of Conduct](#) which is on our website and app.



If your child is expected to stay after school for coaching, we expect all parents/carers to expect it also of their child, to support them so they don't make the same mistakes again and become better learners.

**The only way our children will succeed is if we work together to expect the best of them,**





# RESPECT–Parents' Views

We really respect and value your feedback and would like to thank all the parents/carers that attended our Summer Symposium in July. We will host another one of these in Autumn 2021.

Our [Events calendar](#) outlines all the important events for parents and carers with children at the Academy. You should check this regularly.

Some of the highlighters from the recent parents' survey are below:

- 95.3% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed their child was happy at the Academy in Summer term
- 96.7% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their child felt safe at the Academy
- In Summer term only 6% of respondents disagreed with the statement 'My child has been bullied and the school dealt with it quickly and effectively'.
- Only 7% of respondents in Summer term disagreed that 'when I have raised concerns, they have been dealt with by the school'.
- 94.1% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'My child does well at this school' in Summer Term.
- 96.5% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: 'There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school'.
- 93% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'The school supports my child's wider development' in Summer Term.

We are expecting an Ofsted inspection this term and encourage parents to give positive feedback in response to all surveys.

If you have a specific issue, please raise it with us directly using the details on p14 of this newsletter—the survey is not the way to raise a concern.



# EXCELLENCE AT JQA–Roald Dahl

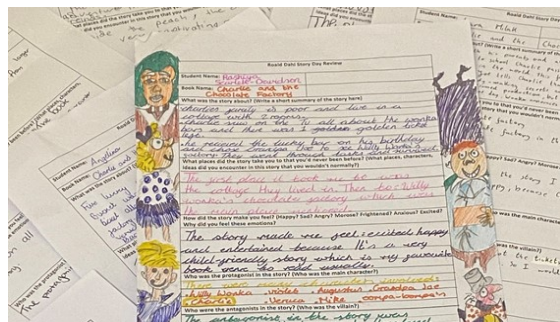
On Monday 13th September, we celebrated 'Roald Dahl Story Day' at JQA. Roald Dahl is one of the world's most cherished authors and so we believe it is crucial that students gain an appreciation for his work, which continues to stand the test of time.

Students learnt about some of Dahl's most famous works, including 'Matilda,' 'Fantastic Mr Fox,' and 'The Witches,' as well as details from his extraordinary life, which saw him work as a spy, an inventor, a fighter pilot, and an author.

We believe that reading good books can be life changing for our students. It can allow students to experience things they otherwise wouldn't be able to, from living in different time periods to meeting people from other cultures and worlds.

Studies show the clear link between how much a student reads for enjoyment and their success at GCSE. We encourage all our students to read for a minimum of 20 minutes each day and this week they have been tasked with reading a Roald Dahl book and then writing a review on it. The best reviews will be rewarded with a Willy Wonka chocolate bar and the very, very best reviews, which demonstrate the highest excellence, will win a hot chocolate and a Wonka bar with Mr Barton!

**Thank you to all parents/carers who have returned their child's Birmingham Libraries sign-up form. We will shortly be organising membership cards of trips to the Library of Birmingham.**



# EXCELLENCE AT JQA–New School Blazers

We believe that our school uniform is a symbol of what we represent as a school at JQA.

Our uniform brings us together as one, we wear it with pride to show respect not only for ourselves, but for others too, we wear it smartly to show how we are always striving for excellence in everything we do.

This year, all students have been provided with a brand new, free school blazer to ensure all our students look smart and can make a positive, lasting, first impression. We believe this, in turn, prepares them for future opportunities, such as sixth form/college, university and job interviews. [Our Uniform and Equipment policy is here.](#)



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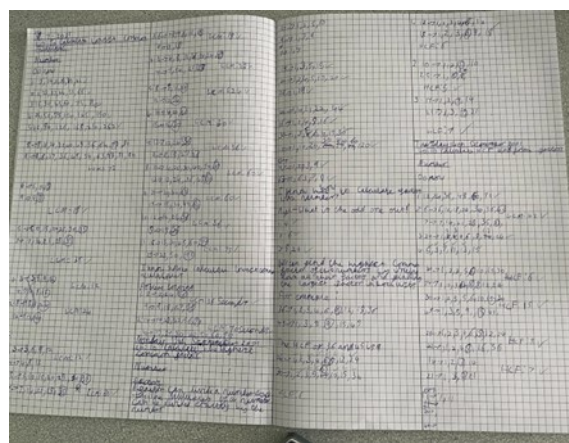
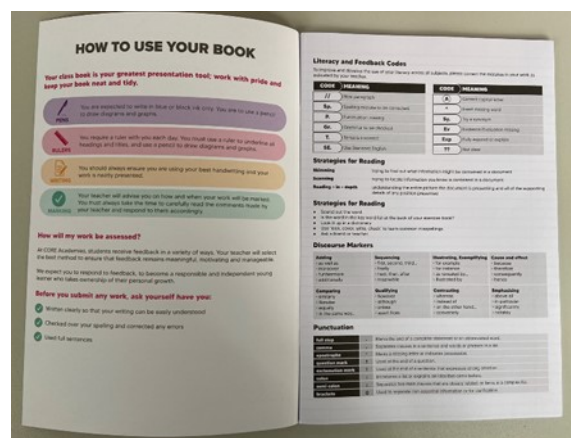
# EXCELLENCE In Exercise Books

This year, students at JQA will be working in specially designed exercise books that have been created by JQA staff.

The books are designed to aid students in their studies, through subject specific vocabulary pages, spelling, punctuation and grammar explanations and key knowledge resources that our teachers believe is vital for students to know in order to produce their best work.

We expect students to demonstrate excellence in all that they do at JQA, and we see the exercise books as an extension of that key value. **We expect neatest work.**

Students have enjoyed working in these specially designed books and have produced some fantastic work, as can be seen in the pictures below. **We review students' books daily and formally every two weeks and award postcards for the most excellent, well-presented work.**



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# EXCELLENCE: CORE Character

Excellence is showing the best version of yourself. Students have been recognised with 'diamond' pin badges for their character traits.

Each term, our students are graded by their tutors on the 12 CORE Character traits—we believe these traits nourish the hearts of our students, and those students who were graded 'green' for every trait by their tutor in the Summer were presented with special badges to reflect that their character shines through brightly.

Students were also given the opportunity to reflect on aspects of their character and consider how to develop these traits over the course of this academic year—also thinking about what opportunities they would like to get involved in from our [Personal Development map](#).

We would like to recognise the following students as the top merit earners for last fortnight:

**Year 8:** Anas

**Year 9:** Marwan

**Year 10:** Aminata

**Year 11:** Demari and Maryam



Keep logging your merits at [www.mystickers.co.uk](http://www.mystickers.co.uk)



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# WHO TO CONTACT AT JQA

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education or progress 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](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)

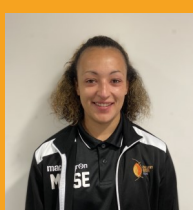


If you would like to contact the Well-Being team, email: [safeguarding@corejewelleryquarter.academy](mailto:safeguarding@corejewelleryquarter.academy)

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



Miss Clarke



Miss Seleshe



Miss Fashina



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 three times a day at 8am and 12pm.



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