

1<sup>st</sup> October 2015

Dear Studio parents

Welcome back to a new Studio school year and, if you are joining us for the first time, welcome to the Studio community! We are and thrilled that you have joined us this year. You join a confident school community, well established and well placed to do the very best for your son or daughter.

The best schools work closely with parents and I wanted to outline some of the ways you can do to make sure your son or daughter achieves everything they are capable of. Chiefly among these is attending the Presentation of Learning events this year details of which are included in this pack.

### **Attendance**

Schools, parents and students are under enormous pressure to attend every day. This is because students with low attendance achieve less than their peers. The current attendance target for Liverpool schools is 97%. To achieve this we have to ensure that students attend every day and do not take holidays in term time. We are expected to fine parents, through the local authority, for holidays taken during term time. Please bear this in mind when planning your year. If your son or daughter needs to attend a medical appointment please try to schedule this for holidays or at the end of the school day so they can attend as many learning sessions as possible.

VI Formers are expected to attend The Studio from 9am-4pm every day. If they do not have taught sessions for part of the day they are expected to study here where they have access to the teachers, peers and resources they need. Please do not allow your child to stay off school to study at home.

### **CPD Dates this term**

There are two planned Studio CPD days on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016**. Students will not be in school on these days.

There are two exceptions to this:

- Year 11 students who are studying NCFE Enterprise have a scheduled NCFE Enterprise exam. They should come to school at 10.30am on this day. They will be finished at 12.30.
- Year 12 students who are resitting their GCSE Maths exam have this exam on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November and should come to school at 9.00am. They will finished at 11.00.

### **Personal Coaches**

Your son or daughter has a personal coach. Personal Coaches work help students set, review and achieve the targets they are working on both in their academic subjects and our industry ready curriculum. This person is your first point of contact on issues of academic progress or issues that arise regarding behaviour or wellbeing. They will have been in touch already to introduce themselves. If there are any issues that may affect your son or daughter's progress please share these with them.

### **Parking**

As both ourselves and the Life Sciences UTC have grown in numbers this year we need to ensure students stay safe when leaving the building at the end of the day. We have concerns that parents picking up their children outside the school pose a potential safety risk to students crossing the road. Can all parents who collect their children by car please arrange to do so at a suitable and convenient place that is not on Greenland Street. Your support with this would be appreciated.

### **Parents' Advisory Group**

We have many opportunities for you to get involved in the Studio so we can align our expectations, support each other and continue to improve what we do. In addition to two parent governors, Mr Curran Jones and Mrs Whalley, several parents meet with me each term through our Parent's Advisory Group. If you would like to be part of this group this year please contact Steph Gibson or Tricia Blasbery on [admin@thestudio-liverpool.co.uk](mailto:admin@thestudio-liverpool.co.uk). The dates of these meetings for this year are:

- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 5.30-6.30pm
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 5.30 – 6.30pm
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 5.30 – 6.30pm

### **U Explore: [www.u-explore.com](http://www.u-explore.com)**

We have registered all Studio students with this online portal for careers advice, advice and guidance. They will use this in school and outside school too. There is a letter enclosed outlining its many benefits and features. One of the key benefits is that you can explore their choices with them and see the sites and careers they register an interest in. To do this please follow the simple instructions on the letter. The registration code you need is STUDIO.

### **Habits for Success: Sleep and Online Activity**

We are always concerned that our students are developing the habits they need to be happy and successful. Getting enough sleep is key to this because young people process their learning when they are asleep. Doctors recommend at least 9 hours for this age group. The optimal time of the night to sleep is 10pm – 6am so please ensure your children develop good habits in this regard.

I would like to draw your attention to the recent debate in the media about the use of technology in schools. We are very aware of the need to encourage our students to be active creators of technology rather than passive consumers of it. Please do your best as parents to regulate their use of technology for non-productive purposes. Watching TV and gaming excessively can adversely affect students' academic performance:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-34139196>

### **PE**

PE is a compulsory subject with in the national curriculum for Year 10 and 11 and important for students' wellbeing. Can you please ensure your child has their PE kit every session. This must be a black T-Shirt (without logos) and black shorts.



I look forward to seeing you soon and encourage you to join us in securing the best possible learning through this year.

Yours

Shaun McNerney