ERASMUS DARWIN ACADEMY

Primitas Learning Partnership | Consultation Collaboration Support

Headteacher
Mr P. Walklate BSc(Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH, NPQEL

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October 2026

Dear families,

As we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and partnership with the Academy.

It has been a fantastic start to the academic year, and I am incredibly proud to see how well the vast majority of students have settled into the new academic year. Throughout the term, students have demonstrated impressive levels of hard work, resilience and high aspirations in their learning and wider EDA life. Their positive attitude and commitment have set a strong foundation for the year ahead.

I would also like to extend a special welcome and congratulations to our Year 7 families and all families who have recently joined our EDA community. Completing your first half term with a new school is an important milestone and we hope that both students and families have settled well into Academy life.

I would also like to thank families for their cooperation with the slight changes to our morning drop-off arrangements. The system has worked extremely well and has helped ensure that students arrive safely and efficiently each morning. Your patience and support have contributed to a process that is both slick and safe for everyone involved.

Our new systems and processes that have been implemented to ensure that we are ‘mobile phone’ free have been very positive. These new systems and processes have also helped to dramatically improve student punctuality to school. We will continue with these systems and processes after half term. Thank you for your support with this. Please could I reiterate one reminder that student lockers are for their own personal use only and they are not to be shared with other students other than family members. We have seen an increased number of students coming into school without their locker key, can you please make sure that this is ready with their belongings each day and if they have lost their key a new one can be purchased via Wisepay.

I would like to thank families for their engagement over the first half term. We have had a range of evenings which have included work experience, examination preparation, MEP evenings, meet the tutor and examination support evenings. In addition, we have asked Year 7 families for their feedback regarding transition and the responses were fantastic. I have added these below:

- **97%** of families stated they felt well informed during the first two weeks of their child’s secondary education
- **96%** of families stated they were satisfied with the transition experience
- **96%** of families stated their child was either confident or extremely confident with the new school routines
- **94%** of families stated the transition communication was helpful
- **93%** of families stated their child was either confident or extremely confident about settling into lessons

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- **92%** of families stated the overall transition process was excellent, and they would recommend this to our future families

There have been many highlights from this half term, I would encourage you to look at our Academy Blog which showcases a range of student achievements, events and activities from across the Academy over the last 8 weeks. The link to the Academy Blog is here
https://sway.cloud.microsoft/Ya9bXi3LzomhjxSl?ref=Link

Below are the key dates for the family calendar for the next half term. For some of these events, there will be addition correspondence sent to families which will include greater detail.

Monday 2nd November	• Year 11 and Year 13 PPE examinations begin
Tuesday 3rd November	• Sixth Form Open Evening • Year 12 English Language Re-sit Examination
Thursday 5th November	• Year 12 English Language Re-sit Examination
Monday 9th November	• Year 10 Welcome to GCSE Meeting
Thursday 12th November	• GCSE Performing Arts Performance • Year 12 and Year 13 Derby Theatre Visit
Monday 16th November	• Year 10 Careers Focus Week begins • GCSE Performance Day 1
Tuesday 17th November	• A-Level Mock Recital
Monday 23rd November	• CNAT Engineering Design Practical Assessment (23-25 November)
Friday 27th November	• INSET Day - Academy closed to students
Monday 30th November	• INSET Day - Academy closed to students
Tuesday 1st December	• Year 11 and Year 13 ACE Meetings
Wednesday 2nd December	• MEP Evening 1
Tuesday 8th December	• Careers Fayre • Fitness Training and Programming Examination
Wednesday 9th December	• Year 13 Live at Home Carol Service
Thursday 10th December	• Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening

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Monday 14th December	• Carol Service Rehearsals • EDA Carol Service at St Anne's Church • Year 10 and Year 12 ACE Meetings
Tuesday 15th December	• GCSE Composition Day
Wednesday 16th December	• A-Level Composition Day • Christmas Lunch for Students and Staff
Thursday 17th December	• Sixth Form Christmas Fayre • Year 13 Parents' Consultation Evening
Friday 18th December	• Christmas Break Begins

New Staff
I would like to take the opportunity to welcome three members of staff to the Academy who joined us this half term:

- Mr Lathlane (Cover Supervisor)
- Mrs Scott (Finance & Business Assistant)
- Mr Bhagat (Teacher of Science)

I would also like to welcome the following members of staff who will be joining in the new half term:

- Mr Hopkins (Teacher of History)
- Mrs Windle (Examinations Officer)

As we break for the half-term, I hope that all our students and families have an opportunity to rest and recharge. We look forward to welcoming students back for another successful half term and continuing to build on the excellent start we have made together. Thank you once again for your ongoing support, I look forward to seeing all students equipped, through the gates (by 08:35am) and ready to re-commence their learning on Monday 2nd November.

Kind regards,

Mr Walklate
Headteacher