ERASMUS DARWIN ACADEMY

Primitas Learning Partnership | Consultation Collaboration Support

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

Erasmus Darwin Academy, Pool Road, Burntwood, Staffordshire, WS7 3QW
T: 01543 685828 E: admin@eda.staffs.sch.uk

November 2026

Dear Families,

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half-term break. It has been a pleasure to welcome students back and to see such a positive start to the new half term. Our EDA superstars have returned ready to learn, demonstrating excellent attitudes and high levels of engagement.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Year 11 and Year 13 students on completing their first round of mock examinations. They approached this important milestone with maturity and determination, and we are proud of the effort and resilience they have shown. The experience gained through these examinations will help them prepare confidently for their summer examinations.

I would also like to thank everyone who took part in our recent Sixth Form Open Evening. The event was extremely well attended, and it was wonderful to speak with so many students and families about the exciting opportunities available as they consider their next steps.

Key Dates
Please find below some key dates for your diary. We will continue to communicate any additional events and updates through our usual channels.

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
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

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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
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

Meet with the Headteacher

To further strengthen our partnership with families, I am offering weekly opportunities for you to meet with me. Appointments will be available every Wednesday from **18th November** through to the final Wednesday of term, between 3:30pm and 4:30pm. If you would like to book a slot, please contact j.skelding@eda.staffs.sch.uk and arrangements can be made.

Firework Safety

As we enter the season of bonfire and firework celebrations, I would like to remind everyone of the importance of staying safe. If your family is attending an organised fireworks event, I hope you have a wonderful time enjoying the celebrations together. Please remind students to follow all safety guidance and be considerate of others within the community.

As always, thank you for your continued support. By working together, maintaining open communication and sharing high expectations for our young people, we can ensure that every student is successful, happy and able to achieve their full potential. I look forward to another successful half term and to continuing our partnership with you.

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Yours sincerely,



Mr P Walklate
Headteacher