



The summer break is upon us and for once we have enjoyed excellent weather which will no doubt change once the holiday begins! We have said goodbye to 'Year 11 2018' at their recent prom, an event which was fantastically well attended and was an evening when the students celebrated the completion of their exams and the end of their time with us. We wish them every success on the next step of their 'journey'!

This year has seen us making significant progress towards our aim of providing an outstanding learning experience. We have had a significant increase in the number of applications to join The Academy and were the most oversubscribed academy in the City for next academic year.

This year has seen the general standards of uniform and levels of personal organisation displayed by our students continue to improve. Due to the high temperatures we have relaxed our uniform standards but we will revert to full uniform again in the autumn term. It is with great pleasure that I receive regular feedback from visitors to The Academy commenting on the high standards our students demonstrate. This standard is part of 'The Excel Way'. This is our set of very clear expectations which are non-negotiable for all stakeholders. It is vital that parent/carers support those expectations which are designed to give each learner a world class learning experience.

As part of a development of 'The Excel Way'. We will introduce more 'silent lesson changeovers' in September, simply because students are more calm moving to lessons and in those lessons. Other initiatives will be introduced to support appropriate behaviour and successful learning in our induction day on the first day back.

After much consideration and consultation we have decided to ban the use of mobile phones and other technological devices (e.g. iPods, mp3 players etc.) from The Academy. This means that they should not be seen or heard in The Academy at any time between 8.15am – 3.05pm. Earphones should also not be seen at any time. We strongly recommend that students do not bring mobile phones to school.

The Academy will close for the summer break on Friday 20th July 2018 at 1.30pm. Brunch will be served at break in the morning and provision will be available for any students who need to stay in school until their normal finish time of 3.00pm

The Academy will reopen at 8.35am on Wednesday 5th September for Year 7 students and at 11am for students in Year 8, 9, 10 and 11. This will be an induction day for all students.

From all of the staff at The Academy, can I wish you a great summer and look forward to seeing you all again in September!

Mr Bishop - Principal



HOY Updates!



As we come to the end of the academic year, reflecting on the last half term, and the year as a whole, it fills me with immense pride of how well the vast majority of students in Year 7 have done on their first year at The Academy. This last term has seen students complete their very important final exams which were completed to the best of order, and from early analysis, have produced excellent results. Students as well as parents/carers should be proud of the children, we at The Academy certainly are.

Outside of the classroom, students have been taking part in the 'Readathon' event, as well as enjoying sporting competitions at an inter-form level, which has again highlighted the talent Year 7 possess in a sporting context. Students have also been enjoying the end of year celebration events at Alton Towers, and activities provided in school too - further recognition of their efforts this year. In reference to celebration, one of the highlights of my job, the end of term celebration assembly, is a further example of the outstanding students in Year 7 who have demonstrated 'The Excel Way' consistently over this term and throughout the whole year.

As the academic year draws to a close, it is important to not only reflect on the last year, but look forward also. Students need to enjoy their holiday time and rest up ready for September when their journey continues. Ensuring they are ready to respond positively to the challenges of Year 8, and build on their successes from this year (or address concerns), so that on the first day back they are fully equipped, correctly uniformed and have the right mindset to learning so that Year 8 can see them continue to reach their full potential.

I wish to publically thank the Form Tutors for their efforts this year. I know they are regularly liaising with parents/carers in order to ensure students are on track and this takes a commitment which doesn't happen without effort and hard work. In addition, it can't happen without the support of parents/carers and thank you for working alongside The Academy in helping us seek the best for the children. Finally, as previously mentioned, a massive thank you to the students on what, for the vast majority, has been a job well done.

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable summer, and I look forward to seeing you all safe and well in September.

Mr Pickup - Year 7



Year 8 have been busy this term looking at options and making decisions for the next academic year. We have been running several form breakfast awards where the form with the least behaviour points over a 2 week period had a breakfast during tutor time. The winning Form for the first round was 8NW. The second round was so close and in 1 day the results changed from 8TC winning all week to 8NW overtaking and winning the prize. On the last week we are running Form sports events so it will be an exciting time to see who will be the winners. It has been a very busy but successful year for Year 8 and I hope you all have a lovely summer and come back feeling refreshed and ready to start your GCSE years in September. **Mrs Moore - Year 8**



It's the end of another successful year for Year 9. We have had some exciting opportunities with outside agencies coming in to work in English and practice our interview skills. We have taken part in the excellent Academy Musical, Annie. Several of Year 9 students' art work has been displayed at the SASCAL Conference and will now travel around the country! The team of students taking part in the Stoke City Enterprise Challenge came 3rd in the City, so we are really proud of their success. Looking forward, we are ready to start Year 10 with a positive and mature attitude to our studies. Year 10 students will be expected to stay regularly for P6 lessons and extra tuition, in order to ensure that everyone makes the progress they need to for their GCSEs. I hope you all have a lovely summer and I look forward to seeing everyone in the new school year. **Mrs Gerrard - Year 9**



It has been a very exciting and challenging end of term for Year 10. They excelled during work experience with every student receiving a positive report from their placement. It was such a privilege to receive such positive comments from employers. Students have also had a week of taster days at local colleges. They were able to gain an insight into what the colleges have to offer, in order to help them, plan for their futures. Students worked hard towards their End of Year Assessments, with a number of students using their lunchtimes and after school time to complete extra revision. Hopefully they get the results they deserve to make a positive start in Year 11. I would like to thank you for your support this academic year and look forward to working together during Year 11. **Mrs Robb - Year 10**



The day of Prom was a beautiful day for the class of 2018 as our first Excel students have reached the end of their 5 year journey. They have been a wonderful year and behaved impeccably as ever during their final hooray. Westwood Golf Club did us proud with a warm welcome and 'mocktails' on arrival! A variety of carriages were on display, including a London double decker bus! After a presentation and speeches, the usual 'staff dance' was replaced by something I think you will all agree was a big hit, with more than 15,000 views...click [here](#) to watch! It also featured in The Sentinel...click [here](#) to read all about it! Our young adults danced the night away, or played at the Excel Casino until the very end - it was a great atmosphere! A big 'thank you' from me to you - I am very proud of you all! **Mr Rimmer - Year 11**

Mr Harvey - Assistant Principal



As the Academic year draws to a close I can look back with pride on how our young people have grown and matured since last September. There are huge positives attached to every year group.

The Year 7 cohort have settled in superbly to life at The Academy and are doing well in all aspects of secondary school life. I have the pleasure of meeting many of the year group for Student Council meetings and work with the student panel that interviews new staff. The maturity shown by these students is beyond their years and I'm sure it will continue to flourish in the new year. Beyond the academic side, it was particularly pleasing to see Year 7's recognised at the recent PE Awards evening for a whole host of sporting achievements, and also a number of the year group that took to the stage for the recent production of Annie – a lot to make The Academy proud.

In Year 8 the students have picked their options and should now be looking forward to starting their GCSE courses in September. Hopefully the advice and guidance they received when choosing their options back in Spring Term will have helped them make informed decisions that will enable them to flourish in their chosen pathway. Again, numerous Year 8 students have been recognised for sporting achievements and their dedication to the school production, but I must give special recognition to Freya (8HA) who had the principal role of Annie. Freya was magnificent during the show and just this week performed a solo performance at the Trust Staff Awards Evening, a daunting gig in front of Governors, Head teachers, Senior Leaders and staff from 8 different schools. Such confidence and an excellent role model for the other students.



Year 9 students have now completed their first year of GCSE studies and continue to progress. I had the pleasure of taking a small group of Year 9's to London earlier this year for a British Values trip, taking in the famous landmarks around Central London, culminating in a tour and educational workshop in the Houses of Parliament. I know Mrs Gerrard is extremely proud of her year group and has organised a series of Rewards events for students who have shown academic progress as well as meeting the behaviour and mindset expectations of The Academy.

Year 10 are now ready to take over the mantle of being our most senior students and I'm sure they will rise to the challenge and be role models for the younger students. We have already embedded our Prefect team ready for the new year, and special congratulations to Connor (10CO) and Alexi (10SD) who, after a rigorous selection process, were appointed Head Boy and Head Girl. They have an excellent senior team around them and I'm sure they will drive the growing student leadership agenda forward under the guidance of Miss Knight and Mrs Gibson. A quick mention regarding Year 10 Work Experience; the feedback from employers was amazing and the students should all be extremely proud of how they conducted themselves for the week in the world of work.

And finally our Class of 2018. The Year 11 have been an absolute pleasure to work with over the last 5 years and I'm sure they will get the results they deserve in August.

Looking ahead to next year, our standards and expectations continue to rise and I make no apologies for the relentless tracking and monitoring that sits behind this. At Excel, we want our young people to leave The Academy well prepared for post 16 life in a world that is changing rapidly, and where our students need to stand out from the rest in order to gain a head start. Competition in the work place, at college, in the field of apprenticeships is fiercer than ever before.

A couple of significant changes for September 2018 are our new mobile phone rule and our move towards Silent Lesson changeovers.

Mobile Phones

It is widely acknowledged that mobile phones, whilst becoming a necessity for most people, bring with them hazards in the form of social media, cyber bullying, distraction to concentration levels and reduction in child literacy skills. In addition, students often contact parents direct from their mobile phone with illness concerns or to tell them some news, and it makes our job as an Academy more difficult when dealing with such matters. We have decided to ban mobile phones from The Academy between the hours of 8.15am and 3.05pm. This means that earphones will also be banned. Phones will be confiscated if they are seen and the consequence system for not adhering to the rule is clearly set out on the website and will be shared with students in September.



Silent Lesson Changeovers

As The Academy continues to grow we are always thinking about the safety of all students and maintaining a calm environment at all times. During the exam season, students moved silently around the building and their response to this was exceptional – their respect for other students clear to see. During that period students reported that busy corridors were calmer as a consequence and students were able to move with less congestion and in a much more appropriate manner. Staff also reported that students arrived at lessons quicker and were far more settled at the start of the lesson.

We feel that the students have plenty of social time at The Academy, and that between lessons is still 'time for business', so these standards and expectations will be embedded in the new year.

I hope you are all looking forward to a relaxing summer break and we look forward to welcoming your children back to the Academy in September.

R Harvey - Assistant Principal

White Water Writers

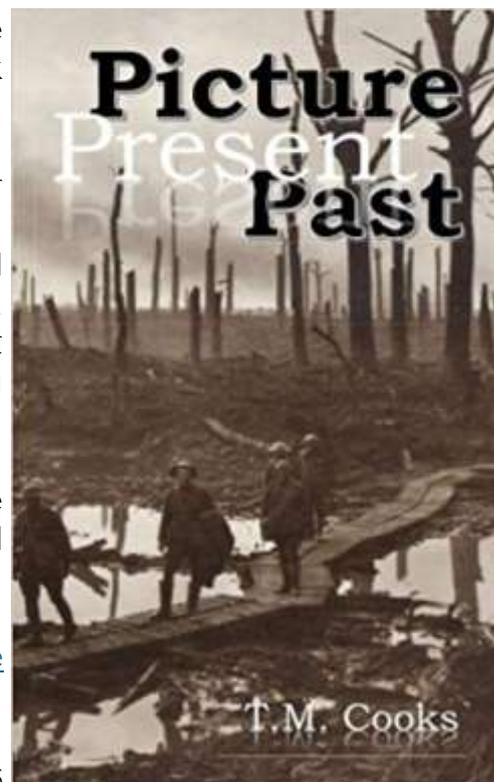
Nine talented Excel Academy students were selected to work on their very own published book alongside White Water Writers.

White Water Writers is a project funded by Higher Horizons+. It involves students from targeted postcodes collaboratively producing an entire novel within a week. Every chapter, every word, every idea is formulated by the students; teachers/project facilitators have zero involvement in the writing process.

Collaboratively the students wrote an incredible 28,000 words! The novel is called 'Picture Past' and will be under the pen name of T.M.Cooks.

The book is available to buy from Amazon - click [here](#) to purchase!

One of our amazing writers, Poppy, Year 07, has written a short piece on her experience of this fantastic week:



"Starting from Monday 25 June, some of the best writers in school were able to collaborate with 'White Water Writers' on a course to produce a book within the school week.

Students, graduates and tutors from Keele University were coming and going every day. Richard, one of the Psychology professors from the University, was the person who took us through the entire process. I personally felt rather strange as I was the youngest person out of the nine selected students who did this.

People have not stopped congratulating us and checking in on us. I feel like a celebrity, as I am sure all of us do, as becoming an author was a life goal for most of us.

By the end of the long and hard week, we had unbelievably produced a full length published novel, containing time travel, World War I references, a mysterious photograph and a unique, strong friendship."

A huge congratulations to the students involved; Poppy, Declan, Sheila, Ange-Lynn, Paige, Ella-Marie, Lauren, Jack and Luke. We are extremely proud of you!

Stoke Literary Festival

High ability Year 10 students from The Excel Academy visited the Stoke on Trent Literary Festival at Stoke Sixth Form College on Friday 22 June, where they experienced a talk from Prue Leith CBE, who discussed her restaurateur career as well as her successes as a writer and TV personality.



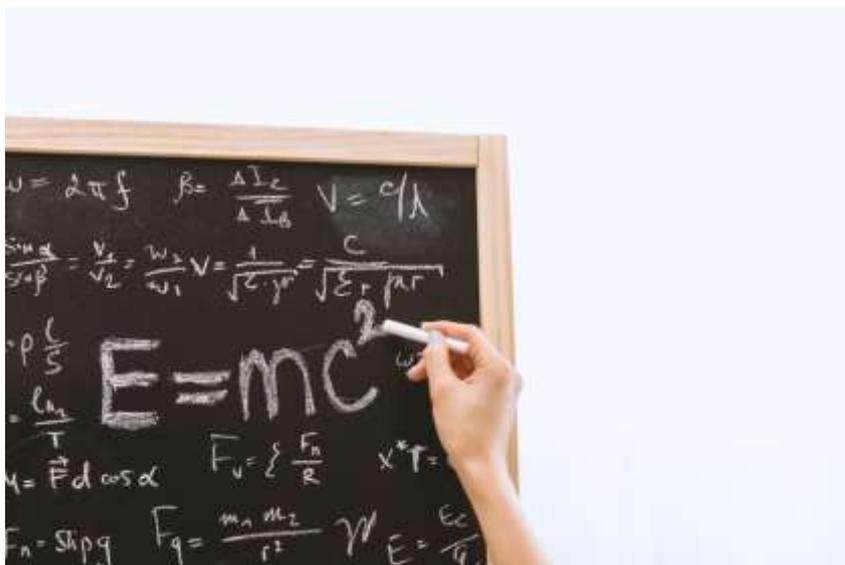
Students also met Dan Jones, Historian and writer, who engaged the students in an interesting Q&A session, in which he discussed topics from his favourite moments in history, to Donald Trump, to stories behind his tattoos.



It was a wonderful opportunity for the students, especially those who are particularly interested in writing as a career.

Able & Ambitious Transition

On Wednesday 04 July, the Maths department welcomed teams of four Year 6 students who have places at Excel for September from five of our feeder Primary Schools. These were the most able mathematicians from their Year 6 classes, taking part in a Maths Challenge as part of our transition provision for Able and Ambitious students.



Teams representing Sneyd Green Primary, Milton Primary, Hillside, Norton and Newford came for an afternoon of problem solving led by Mr Martin. This was incredibly successful, with a real buzz and a clear love of Maths on show.

On Tuesday 10 July, the English department also held a Challenge workshop with teams from the same schools. Again, these were the most able in English in their Year 6 classes.

Teams competed in a Spelling Bee made up of different rounds in which to earn points. The students were amazing - they certainly rose to the challenge with some particularly tricky anagrams, and Miss Monir's 'Who wants to be a Millionaire?' spelling edition! Miss Murray and Miss Monir thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon and we hope the students did too!



The teams were an absolute credit to their schools - they were polite, enthusiastic, worked well as teams and demonstrated a very high standard of understanding of Maths and English.

We look forward to seeing these students in September!

Year 07 History Trip

Year 07 History students enjoyed learning about World War I at this year's 'Thank You' Youth Festival at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Forty students took part in various activities including making their own spoken word raps, decorating lanterns in the style of 'dazzle camouflage' and acting out roles of male and female servicemen in a drama of the 'Women's Land Army'.

Well done Year 7!



Parking on Milton Road



We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that there should be no stopping or dropping off of students on the Academy side of Milton Road.

Please note that Permit Parking bays are situated on the opposite side of Milton Road which are for residents only.

Enforcement Officers do operate in this area.

Thank you for your support.



Careers Update



We have had a fantastic response from our Year 10 students who recently completed their Work Experience. This was the most successful experience that we have had over the last 5 years, with every student successfully completing their week.

We have had overwhelmingly positive feedback from employers and would like to thank both students and parents for supporting this vitally important week.

We have also given the Year 10 students the opportunity to spend 3 days at Stoke 6th Form College and Stoke on Trent College at the end of term. The experience breaks down barriers and concerns that our students may have about applying and attending college at the end of Year 11. Both Colleges put on an excellent programme of lessons and workshops, and our students behaved impeccably, gaining a valuable insight over the 3 days. Thanks once again to Year 10 and all staff and parents involved in supporting these days.



We look forward to Year 10 moving in to their final year with a clearer idea and focus of what their career pathway will be, and focus their concentration on achieving their best possible results.

Mr Clive Shaw, our careers advisor, is available 2 days a week in the Academy LRC and will be interviewing all students regarding supporting their future plans. Please take note of all up and coming College Open Days and attend with your child to ensure they have an excellent understanding over everything that is available to them.



Miss Knight - Head of PE Faculty and Careers

Sporting Achievements

Year 08 Super 8 Athletics

On Thursday 07 June, several students competed in the Year 08 Super 8 Athletics. Altogether 15 schools competed and the Excel Team came SECOND overall!

The students should be commended for their enthusiasm, support, encouragement and impeccable behaviour.



Well done to all students involved - we are very proud of you!

County Athletics

On Saturday 09 June, several Year 09 and 10 students gave up their Saturday to represent Stoke in the County Athletics.

Although no one managed to progress further, we had some very close results with two of our students narrowly missing out!

Well done to Ethan, Lauren, Beth, Jodie, Piper, Lily May, Matthew, Giovanni, Ange Lynn and Hannah!

Year 07 & 8 City Athletics

On Monday 18 June, several students competed in the Year 7 & 8 City Athletics.



Altogether 15 schools competed with the hope of progressing through to the County.

The students should be commended for their enthusiasm, support, encouragement and impeccable behaviour.

Well done to all students involved - we are very proud of you!

County Competition

On Friday 29 June, several students competed in the County rounders tournament at Keele. Excel represented North Stoke at the Level 3 School Games, where the best schools in Staffordshire competed against each other.

The girls had trained hard for the competition and played with great desire, enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

Well done to Safina, Deborah, Abi, Leah, Liberty, Jessica, Halle, Jade, Amy and Abbie, who have been a pleasure to teach and coach this year!

On the same day, several students also competed in the County trampolining competition at Keele, representing North Stoke in the Level 3 School Games.

The team comprised of two beginner teams and one intermediate team. Altogether, there were 50 students participating and 15 teams. The squad performed some fantastic routines, demonstrating beautiful technique and managed to perform with amazing self control under pressure.

For the first time ever, the beginner team consisting of Libby, Millie, Rhiannon and Lily May became County Champions! Mille was also County Runner Up in the individual competition and Libby came 3rd.

The intermediate team also became County Champions, consisting of Jared, Ethan, Katie and Mairead. Excel had a clean sweep with Katie becoming County Champion in the Individual competition, Ethan came 2nd and Jared came 3rd.

The beginner (team 2) also competed very well and produced some fantastic routines. For some, it was their first ever competition and they handled the environment and pressure extremely well. Well done to Brooke, Jessica, Amy and Megan.



Sports Leaders Report 17-18

The Excel Academy has had another brilliant year supporting sporting events throughout Stoke on Trent and in to the county of Staffordshire.

There were 69 sports leaders at various events in the Autumn Term, 46 in the Spring Term and 202 in the Summer Term; totalling 317 sports leader sessions throughout the year.

During the year, 69 Year 7s, 46 Year 8s, 35 Year 9s and 22 Year 10s have undertaken one or more leadership experiences on or off The Excel Academy's Milton Road site.

The specific events The Excel Academy leaders volunteered at included:

- Leading at Multi Skills festivals at Excel for Key Stage 1 children in Primary schools
- Setting up and delivering fun games at Change4Life festivals for Key Stage 2 children and mentoring Primary aged sports leaders at the same time
- Organising and scoring at Primary Schools Games days
- Running inclusive mini Paralympics events at various schools for Primary aged children and young people with severe mental disabilities
- Officiating Badminton and Tennis competitions at Special schools
- Event volunteering at sports hall and outdoor town and city athletics championships
- Umpiring at Netball competitions
- Volunteering at the County Winter and Summer County School Games
- Timekeeping at evening Primary Swimming Galas
- Delivering open speeches with confidence at School Games at various schools
- Announcing at the Victoria Hall Dance shows in front of 1,000 people and at the Port Vale Football Club
- Acted as mentors for young Primary Leaders training in the Seven Stars Leadership Academy
- Running our own Excel School Games for 200 children from six Primary schools

An amazing list of events!

Well done to all the Sports Leaders. You have done The Excel Academy proud, worked with leaders from other schools really well and helped Primary school children get, and stay, that little bit fitter!





Meet the Team!



<p>P. Smith (Safeguarding Lead across the Trust)</p>	<p>C. Malhi (Designated Safeguarding Lead – Excel)</p>	<p>J. Wainwright (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Excel)</p>	<p>C. Sherratt</p>	<p>J. Pickup</p>	<p>C. Fairclough</p>
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Dates for your diary

Summer Term 2018	
Academy Closes	Friday 20 July
Autumn Term 2018	
Academy Opens for Staff	Monday 03 September
Academy Opens for Students	Wednesday 05 September 8.35am - Year 7 // 11am - Year 8, 9, 10 & 11



Upcoming Events

Rewards Day	Thursday 19 July	More details to follow
Y11 Progress Evening	Thursday 13 September	Y11 Parents/Carers
Year 06 Open Evening	Thursday 20 September	Year 06 Parents/Carers & students
Student Academy Support Event	Thursday 04 October	SEN Parents/Carers & students
Year 07 Form Tutor Evening	Thursday 18 October	Year 07 Parents/Carers
The Excel Academy Awards Evening	Thursday 25 October	Invitation Only