

Friday, 27th June 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Introduction from Mr McDaid-Jones

I hope this message finds you well.

As you will have read in the recent letter from Mr Averis, I am delighted to be joining BOA Digital Technologies Academy as Interim Headteacher for the next three weeks. Since starting on Monday, I've had the pleasure of spending time around the Academy, meeting many of our students and staff and beginning to understand what makes BOA Digital such a special place.

Over the past few days, I've had open and honest conversations with students and staff about their experiences and what improvements they would like to see. I've also met with some members of the student council and will be continuing to engage with them next week. Today, I spoke to all year groups to introduce myself, outline my expectations, and explain what students can expect from me in return: consistency, fairness, and a commitment to supporting every young person to succeed.

As a reminder, our schools focus on Digital Employability Skills: **Driven, Innovative, Genuine, Independent, a Team Player, Ambitious, a Leader** and these will guide all we do together in the weeks ahead.

While there is much to celebrate, I must also be clear that there are some students who are not meeting our minimum expectations. It's essential that every student is able to learn in a calm and focused environment, and I will be working with staff to ensure that behaviour does not disrupt learning for others.

Attendance and Punctuality

One immediate area of concern is punctuality. Since Monday, we have recorded over 26 hours of missed learning time due to late arrivals to lessons. This is not acceptable, and I will be working closely with staff and students next week to address it. Teachers plan for the *entire* lesson, and it's vital that students are present from the very start so that they don't miss important content or disrupt the flow of learning. My expectation is simple: all students must attend school every day, attend every lesson, and arrive on time.

Out of Class Passes and Lesson Expectations

Another issue we are addressing is students leaving lessons without permission. This is classed as truanting and will now carry a consequence. To manage this consistently, I will be introducing an **Out of Class Pass** system. If a student genuinely needs to leave a classroom during a lesson, the teacher may issue a pass, but this will only happen in appropriate circumstances and in an orderly way.

Students are reminded that toilets should be used, and water bottles filled, during break and lunchtime. Lessons must remain our priority, and messages or other non-urgent matters should be handled outside of learning time. For the avoidance of doubt, if students need to use the toilet during

lesson the teacher will be able to use the out of class pass. (Students who already have passes from the inclusion team for toilets use or time out will be exempt from this system).

I know that you will agree these are standard, reasonable expectations, and they are necessary so that all students can thrive.

Consistent Consequences and the Reflection Room

We will also ensure that consequences are applied fairly and consistently. Students should only be removed from a lesson when their behaviour is seriously affecting others. When this happens, the student will be expected complete a 1 hour tutorial on a Wednesday or the students will have to spend the following day in our Reflection Room. Parents and carers will be notified if this consequence is applied.

The Reflection Room is not a punishment zone, it is a **restorative space**, supported by our pastoral and inclusion staff, where we aim to understand and address the root causes of any issues so that students can re-engage positively with their learning. Students who have not adhered to the clear sanctions, missed a detention or are returning from a suspension will spend the day in the Reflection Room. They will complete all of the work that they have missed and complete the full curriculum that their peers are doing that day but in the Reflection Room. They will need to hand their mobile phones in at the start of the day and will have it back at the end of the day. Their lunchtime and break time will be at a different time to the rest of the students. I hope that this consequence is not needed to be used but appreciate your support in making it as effective and restorative as possible. Students that fail the Reflection room will be suspended and will need to complete it appropriately the next school day.

Recognition, Praise and Celebration

It's also very important to say that **the vast majority of students meet our expectations every day**, and I want to make sure they are recognised and celebrated for that.

From next week, I will be asking staff to use praise points deliberately and frequently. I have told students today that I'll also be launching a **Headteacher's Digital Summer Project**, which will give students the chance to earn even more praise points for creative and digital work. Each week, I will invite our top praise point earners to a **Headteacher's Celebration Session** to recognise their efforts and achievements. I have met with some of the student council today who are coming up with more ideas of how we can celebrate them and their peers.

Staying in Touch

My priority is to support and celebrate the students who are doing the right thing, but I hope you understand that we can only do this effectively if we set high expectations and apply them consistently.

If you need to contact the school, please do so in the usual way. However, if you would like to get in touch with me directly, you are welcome to email: **Principal@BOA-digital.co.uk**.

Finally, I would like to remind all parents and carers to download the **MCAS app** if you haven't already done so. This is the best way for us to stay in touch with you. If you are having any issues accessing the app, please do let us know and we will support you in getting set up.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to make BOA Digital Technologies Academy the best it can be.

Yours faithfully,



Liam McDaid-Jones
Interim Headteacher
BOA Digital Technologies Academy

