

Our ref: MMC/NWI

8 November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you all managed to have a lovely half term break. Students have returned to the academy this week and settled back in seamlessly. We welcomed external visitors to the Academy from a teacher training organisation who were blown away by our School. It is always lovely to receive such positive feedback about our school, but the most pleasing aspect is how each visitor comments so warmly about the young people that come here, there now feels like students have a genuine pride to attend this academy and we feel very fortunate.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### October Half Term Achieve Sessions

Over half term, we enjoyed record attendance to our year 11 Achieve sessions, with over half of the year group attending at least one session over the course of the week. We would like to place on record our thanks to staff for giving up their time to deliver to students, as well as parents/carers for their continued assistance with supporting students to attend. Finally, a huge well done to students for demonstrating the highest standards and investing to achieve the best outcomes possible.

### Year 11 Examinations

From Monday 18 November, year 11 trial examinations will commence for a two-week period. All students have been issued with their examination timetables, and when not in examinations, students will attend lessons as normal. To support students with their preparations, we invite them to attend our breakfast pre-Achieve sessions, which have been incredibly popular over the last six years. These take place in the diner from 7:30 am, with students having access to free tea and toast and resources to support their preparations, including subject teachers. During the examination window, students should enter through main reception to sign in. As part of our marginal gains programme, all students will have access to water and sweets to maximise their ability to achieve their potential.

### Year 10 Achieve Week

Next week, all year 10 students will experience their first Achieve Week, where the timetable will be collapsed to support students to complete practical assessments, coursework and PSAs (examinations) across a range of subjects. Each student has been given a bespoke timetable to follow, which will mean they have an extended period of time in each subject area to mitigate lost learning time.

### Tassomai

The final week before half term was another week of excellent investment in Tassomai, our GCSE revision app that both years 10 and 11 use for English, Science, Geography, History and Computer Science. Both year groups clocked up a total of over 300 hours of quizzing, which is fantastic.

### Sparx

As we ended the last half term, we hit over 1400 hours of personalised learning time. This means, on average, every student completed 1 hour of independent learning each week in Sparx. Also, as a polite



reminder, all groups will have homework due Thursday each week. Thank you for your continued investment in Sparx mathematics.

## **Enrichment**

Block two of the Electives will commence on Wednesday 20 November. We have sent parents/carers a copy of the Elective brochure via ClassCharts and are excited to launch some new elective additions including Fitness and a Level 1 Sports Leadership qualification. Students were sent, via school email, a link to a form to select their top four choices by Monday 4 November. Electives will be confirmed by Friday 15 November.

On Wednesday 6 November, three of our elective groups hosted their first Creative Elective Showcase, inviting over seventy parents/carers to the academy for an afternoon of entertainment. The afternoon began with the Special Event Catering Elective students, inviting parents/carers to taste some of the wonderful delights that they had made, ranging from scones and cupcakes to mini pizza's and quiches. Parents/carers were then entertained by our Show Must Go On elective students as well as our Musical Theatre elective students who presented a range of bespoke performances that they had devised, directed, choreographed and arranged by themselves. It was wonderful to see the emerging talent that our students have nurtured over the last eight weeks, as well as the confidence and creativity of everyone involved.

After school enrichment clubs will start during half term two, the new activities were shared during tutor time on Monday. We have over 25 after school enrichment clubs running, it would be great to see as many students there as possible.

## **Sports Fixtures**

On Tuesday 5 November, our year 7 and 8 girls played football away at Armthorpe Academy. They did incredibly well and won 4 of 5 matches, scoring 10 goals and conceding 2 overall.

## **Events**

### Sixth Form Textbook Launch Afternoon

On Thursday 7 November, all our year 13 students received a complete pack of revision guides for their A Level examinations. As part of our Tea, Targets and Textbooks event, students also received valuable revision advice on how to best achieve their target grades. Our year 12 event will be hosted on Monday 2 December.

### Year 10 Revision Guide Evening

On Thursday 7 November, we hosted our year 10 Revision Guide Evening for students, parents, and carers. Although we will continue to hold our annual year 11 Revision Guide next year to distribute additional revision guides, we are pleased to be able to equip students even earlier than before with a range of revision guides to support their learning in year 10. This is particularly pertinent as many students have upcoming BTEC examinations that contribute towards their final grades.

### Armistice

On Friday 8 November, our Student Parliament members attended an Armistice Day service at Edlington Cenotaph where students were invited to commemorate and remember those who have fought in present and past wars. Students were invited to perform a reading of the poem 'In Flanders Fields' and to lay a wreath alongside other primary schools within the local community.

In addition to this, all students attended an Armistice Day assembly this week as part of our Personal Development curriculum. Coinciding with this, our Student Parliament have also been raising funds for the Royal British Legion by collecting donations through selling poppies during tutor time.



## Sixth Form Open Evening

On Thursday 14 November, we will welcome prospective Sixth Form students and their families to our Open Evening from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The evening will commence with a presentation from our Sixth Form team at 5:15 pm, followed by the opportunity to tour the academy, meet subject teachers, and learn more about the courses on offer. Join us to find out more about our exceptional experiences. Please confirm your attendance at the event via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/cY7Be67haQ0>.

## Breakfast with Santa

On Thursday 19 December from 9:45 to 11:15 am, we are holding our annual Breakfast with Santa. The event is free of charge for all children in the community (under the age of 5) and their families. Children will get a visit from Santa, games, snacks and a little gift from their visit. Please confirm your attendance at the event via this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=10LPXoSNZ0eNkOOgB8gy3s49e4Pm3btJpDHxOFYPOI9UNTnXTidHWVRRSEU4QjRHSVpaTIFTS0FPri4u>.

## Tea Party

On Thursday 19 December from 1:30 to 3:00 pm, we are bringing back our annual OAPs Tea Party. We are inviting anyone from the community who would like to celebrate Christmas with us with some cake and games. If you (or someone you know) would like to attend, please confirm your attendance at the event via this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=10LPXoSNZ0eNkOOgB8gy3s49e4Pm3btJpDHxOFYPOI9UNE01UDVYUIRQSE9DN1FZVUFGTThVWTJVUi4u>.

## **House Updates**

At the end of the first week of this half term, it is Wentworth who have stormed into the lead, taking Cusworth from the top spot in the house rankings. We have launched the second instalment of our Extended House Project with students researching, reading and creating an object that links to Catherine Johnson. Students have until the 20 December to complete this project where they can earn up to 225 house points! In addition to this, we have our weekly wins, box tasks, online quizzes and awareness day projects which students can enter to earn their house points.

On Monday 16 December, we will have our termly house reward of a Christmas cinema screening, where all students in the winning house, who have contributed a minimum of five house points, will be invited to attend the cinema screening.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald

**Principal**

