

Our ref: MMC/NWI

29 November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

We have seen a superb week at the academy and students are engaging in some exceptional learning experiences. Our enrichment offer is varied and significant giving students' excellent opportunities, it is something that we will continue to enhance. Trial examinations have commenced for our year 13 students today and will continue into the first week of December.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### Year 13 Trial Examinations

Trial examinations for our year 13 students started strong today with excellent attendance. All students displayed a positive attitude, were focused and well prepared for their examinations.

### Year 11 Examinations

The second and final week of trial examinations has seen students complete papers in English Language, Mathematics, Chemistry, History, Sport, Health and Social Care, ICT, Computer Science, Food and Music. Students have continued to show excellent investment, and they have continued to attend the Pre-Achieve sessions each morning from 7:30 am to access additional support and to ensure they are fuelled with tea and toast.

Over the coming weeks and months, we continue to stress the importance of students attending every day, as they are already receiving vital feedback on how to improve in each subject based on their performance in these trial examinations. In the final week of this half term, students will receive their trial examination grades in a results assembly.

### Tassomai

Students in years 10 and 11 continue to show superb investment in Tassomai to support their revision in English, Science, Geography, History and Computer Science. Last week saw a combined total of over 300 hours of quizzing, which is excellent and we look forward to this continuing as the competition heats up to decide which students will qualify for the first round of STWA Driving School on Tuesday 10 December.

### Sparx

The Mathematics team would like to thank all students and parents who have participated with times table practise; nearly 50 students have already shown vital improvements that will enable further curriculum access. Our numbers for participation continues to rise with 2,300 hours of independent learning done, an increase of 300 hours in just one week. To date, we have completed 165,000 Mathematics questions and are giving students the practise they need to develop as Mathematicians. Well done to all our students completing their Sparx tasks every week and going the extra mile!



## Enrichment

Enrichment clubs continue to be offered after-school to supplement our elective offer and it is great to see numbers increasing week on week. The after-school enrichment offer is shared every week during tutor time.

Students are awarded 20 house points for every enrichment club they attend, which will go towards their overall total. If a student attends an enrichment activity every day, they will earn 100 house points a week. We will continue to provide our students with excellent after-school opportunities.

## Events

Please find our Festive Calendar attached for a full overview of upcoming events.

### Breakfast with Santa

Booking for our breakfast with Santa event on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December is now closed as the event is fully booked. Everyone who has already booked a place will be guaranteed one on the day. Messages will be sent on the number provided.

### Festive Afternoon Tea Party

On Thursday 19 December from 1:30 to 3:00 pm, we are bringing back our annual Festive Afternoon Tea Party. We are inviting anyone from the community who would like to celebrate Christmas with us with some cake and games. Our event is aimed at ages 65+, but younger residents are welcome. 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>.

## Rewards

### Golden Ticket

We will be holding our Golden Ticket events, including our festive gingerbread-making event, at the end of this half term to reward students for their ongoing hard work and excellent behaviour. Students will be able to access a Golden Ticket event if they have gained a net of 180 reward points and have a minimum of 92% attendance. Students who have attained the necessary number of reward points and attendance percentage will receive a message via ClassCharts to their parent accounts. A link will be provided in the message to a Microsoft Form in which you can select your preferred event. Thank you once again for your support.

## House Updates

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.

## Standards

Please continue to check ClassCharts on a regular basis to ensure that you receive all the relevant information for your child. This is the best way to contact teachers if you need to and check any positives points, negative points and on the rare occasion, detentions. All sanctions are clearly displayed on ClassCharts and it is important parents check these.



## **Attendance**

Attendance continues to be strong this academic year and a good improvement from last year. We are though starting to see more days off from students and more students not in the academy each day. It is important that all students are at the academy each day accessing learning. Most students will have colds, coughs and feel unwell from time to time. These though are not valid reasons for students to not come to school. Students with many minor ailments will be able to get through the school day and access their learning, even when feeling unwell. Each day missed has an impact on a child's education and we have various processes in place to ensure that students feeling unwell are supported.

Please can we ask parents/carers to only keep students away from the academy if they are seriously unwell and unable to access education.

## **Careers**

Our year 10 students have continued their work experience preparations this week during tutor time and period four. They are continuing to look at work experience providers and are linking the content to real world situations. Over the coming weeks, with the support of their tutor, students will craft a well put together letter/email which will be typed and ready to send to prospective work placement providers.

More information regarding our vision for year 10 work experience will follow shortly in the coming weeks from Mr Woodhouse and Mr Martin. We are excited to be in a position to take our careers provision to the next step and really equip our young people with the skills necessary to be successful in the world of work.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald  
**Principal**

