

Our ref: MMC/NWI

2 May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we begin the final term of the school year, this letter shares key updates on teaching and learning, including upcoming examinations, revision support, extracurricular activities, and important events. Education plays a vital role in shaping our students' futures, and it's encouraging to see so many of them working hard and making the most of the opportunities available.

We are thrilled with the re-introduction of a full year 10 work experience programme that will see students grow an understanding of the working world.

As Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world," and we remain committed to helping every student achieve their best.

Teaching and Learning

Year 13 Examinations

The year 13 A Level and BTEC examinations have commenced this week with the BTEC Applied Science and A Level French speaking exams and will continue until late June. Individual timetables have now been shared with the students and include the dates and times of their exams as well as their assigned room and seat numbers. We thank staff for the support that has gone into ensuring all students are fully prepared to sit their final examinations.

Year 11 Examinations

Final written examinations for GCSE and BTEC subjects will commence from Tuesday 6 May, starting with Health and Social Care, followed by Sport on Thursday and Business Studies on Friday.

This week, students received their Achieve timetables, which include their seat numbers and the Achieve sessions that will be running, as the timetable becomes adaptive to prepare students for their next examination.

Year 11 May Half Term Achieve

We are already planning ahead for our May Half Term Achieve sessions, which students are invited to sign up to using this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/gCr0Xpc87h>

Tassomai

Students in year 10 and 11 continue to show impressive investment in Tassomai, with students in each year group spending over 100 hours quizzing per week.

For year 11 students, Tassomai is a vital element of their revision, as the app supports students to identify strengths and areas of weakness to inform final revision in the coming weeks.



Sparx

Sparx continues to be used for revision for years 10 and 11 with over 6000 hours of personalised learning to date. Students can access the entire GCSE curriculum using the "independent practise" button on student's home pages.

In key stage 3, we have had over 200 students demonstrate an improvement in their fluency for times tables, this much needed practise will enable them to access content in key stage 4. We are very proud of the effort students have put in to develop their skills.

Year 10 will soon be given revision lists to begin their preparation for trial exams, these will be linked to the Sparx platform.

Events

Duke of Edinburgh

Last weekend, we had a selection of our year 9 students complete the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Students walked around 25 km across the weekend and completed an overnight camp in the Peak District. Students used vital skills such as map reading, countryside code and teamwork. It was brilliant to see students in the countryside enjoying the scenic views and taking in their surroundings. Students learnt a lot about different animals in the Peak District meaning they completed their group goal. Upon return to the elective, students have been creating posters to show their findings of the many animals they saw over the weekend.

The Lecture Programme

This week we hosted Dr Brandon Shaw to deliver a lecture on 'An Introduction to the Fungal Kingdom' as part of The Lecture Programme. Sixth form and year 11 students who attended the lecture now have a follow up task to complete with a range of rewards for their participation. The students engaged brilliantly and took valuable notes, preparing them for university-style teaching in the future.

Elective Showcase

On Wednesday, we invited parents and carers to our third Elective Showcase event of the year. It started with the Special Event Catering elective students serving afternoon tea, consisting of many delicious delights, to all of the parents and guests who attended.

Students from The Show Must Go On elective and the Creative Writing elective then performed a range of performances, including musical items, drama pieces, dance performances and imaginative readings. The students were fantastic, demonstrating their many talents with confidence and enthusiasm and we were very proud of them as they entertained our academy community.

Sports Fixtures

Following a successful football season, it has now been confirmed that the year 7 football squad have been crowned champions of the Championship league. Mr Walker is very proud of this great achievement for the cohort as they have only been playing together since the start of this academic year. He would also like to thank the playing group for attending training, week in, week out, which he feels has been vital for their success. Another thanks from Mr Walker to the parents/carers who have supported the squad. It has been great to see so many on the sidelines this year supporting students, who have really benefitted from this support in their success. Next year, the group will be challenged further in the Premiership league where they will face tougher opponents across the Doncaster borough in year 8.



House Updates

I am delighted to announce that through our Student Parliament application, we have secured a place at the 2025 Learn with the Lords day at the Palace of Westminster on Thursday 12 June! This is an opportunity where students are able to experience:

- A tour of the Palace of Westminster
- An interactive workshop about the law-making process in their Education Centre
- A Q&A with a Baroness or Lord who will continue to work with our Student Leadership Team throughout the next academic year

Participating in the day will give our students an understanding of the role and membership of the House of Lords, and UK Parliament, further supporting them in their parliamentary role.

This term, we are continuing to work alongside Tickhill Road Hospice to support our charity pledge and our local community. The hospice are looking for talented artists to design a greetings card, featuring a dragonfly; the card designs will be judged by SLT and the winning selection will then be professionally reproduced and sold at the hospice at various fundraising events. The competition is open to all students and they have until Friday 27 June to complete their card designs.

As we head into the final term of the year, there are still a plethora of house activities that will enable students to earn house points. Students are competing to win the end of year house trip to Alton Towers. This is an all-expenses paid trip on Thursday 4 September, where all students in the winning house will be invited to attend the trip as long as they have contributed a minimum of five house points, have a minimum of 97% attendance and less than 50 negative points.

Attendance

Student attendance can be accessed on Classcharts and this will give you a clear update with regards to how many days students have missed from school so far this year. As we mention each week, every day at school counts and days missed in education add up over a child's school life. Please ensure that we limit days off when possible and student are in school making progress.

Standards

We completed another standing assembly with key stage 3 on Wednesday. It is amazing to see over 700 students lining up and then listening so intently to the standing assembly during our tutor time. This is something we are looking to do more over the next half term and then into September. Getting all our key stage 3 community together to share and celebrate our success means we have a positive start to our morning.

Driving and Parking Onsite

Some visitors to the site have been driving against the one-way system and attempting to leave via the one-way entry. This creates very unsafe conditions for students and families. Please follow the one-way system and respect the staff on duty who will enforce this.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

