

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of the first term of the academic year, I would like to send a big thank you for your support in enabling such a positive term. The standard of uniform, equipment and engagement in lessons has been excellent. Students have worked incredibly hard in lessons to ensure they make every moment count. We receive regular visits from other school leaders due to the progress made by the academy over the past few years, and they always comment on the purposeful classrooms, good behaviour and how friendly students are.

Attendance

As mentioned in my previous newsletter, student attendance remains an academy priority. We have seen an improvement this academic year, and this has been reflected in students' assessment outcomes. It is important that this upward trend continues for the final two weeks of term - please encourage your children to attend every day until we break up and minimise "occasional day" absences.

End of Year Plans

You will have seen over the last two weeks across our social media pages, that on Monday 9 December our '10 Days of Christmas' begins. Each day there will be different activities at break times, lunch times and at the end of the academy day; as well as mini gifts spread across the ten days. This includes Christmas Movie Night, Charity Santa Dash and Christmas Stocking making workshop amongst other winter celebration activities such as Wheelchair Rugby, UV Dodgeball and Indoor Inflate Park. The '10 Days of Christmas' will end with a non-uniform day on the last day of term, which is a half day, on Friday 20 December. This will be the first time in ten years at the academy that we have had a non-uniform day for students. The students have been informed that if attendance is poor on this day they will not have this opportunity again, so please make sure your child attends. Students will be able to wear their own clothes, a Christmas jumper or their uniform. There is no cost for this.

You Said, We Did

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the academy values at the end of half-term 1. The feedback was incredibly positive, and also informative enabling us to improve the embedding of the values even further, below is a summary of the main points raised.

You said - You really see the importance of our academy values and how we use them across the academy.

We did - We will continue to promote our values through lessons and assemblies, as well as to enhance their use during unstructured times.

You said - Consistency of awarding the values could be improved, where some staff are better at rewarding for the values on ClassCharts than others.

We did - We will be reviewing our quality assurance systems related to the values, to ensure that they are awarded regularly. We are exploring trust-wide platforms to allow us to do this more effectively.

You said - Some of the values are given a greater profile than others.

We did - We have completed a comprehensive review of which values are awarded the least and will be running internal initiatives to increase their profile.

House System

We are thrilled to share the progress of our new House System, which has come to life this term.

Students have taken pride in shaping their House identities, including designing unique crests that capture the spirit of each House. Voting is currently underway for House-aligned charities, giving students a meaningful opportunity to make a difference together. Leadership roles have also been a focus, with the House Captains and Representatives currently being appointed; fostering teamwork and responsibility across the academy. These will be announced during the House Assemblies.

Our first major House competition, a Bake-Off, has been an exciting highlight, with weekly heats showcasing incredible creativity and talent. The final, set for the last week of term, promises to be a celebration of this collective effort.

Standards (a regular reminder):

We firmly believe that a student's education should not be hampered by a lack of equipment. Below is a list of equipment that is non-negotiable so that students can access their learning.

- A bag that can at least hold a PE kit, exercise books and equipment. Any bag that cannot hold these items is not a suitable bag.
- Pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener.
- A green and purple pen (provided by the academy)
- PE kit on those days they have PE. Students will be expected to borrow a kit if they forget their own.

To make sure that staff can focus on students' learning and wellbeing, can we please make sure that students return with the **correct** shoes and uniform. Students are not permitted to wear false nails, nail varnish, fake eye lashes or dye their hair an unnatural colour. Further information can be found on the uniform section of the academy website. There has recently been an increase of female students wearing branded socks with their shoes, which is not allowed. Please support the academy by ensuring your child has the equipment needed to access their learning in lessons and that they meet all the expectations above with regards to uniform standards.

Return Dates

The academy finishes for the term at 12.10pm on Friday 20 December and will return at the normal time of 8.35am on Monday 6 January. I hope that everyone enjoys a restful break and we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 6 January.

Yours faithfully



Mr P. Willerton
Principal