

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of this half-term, I would like to send a big thank you for your support. It has been a short but busy term with a larger number of trips and events. All the events take place through the goodwill of staff to go above and beyond to give the students the best opportunities possible. The last day of term is Friday 27 March, and the academy will close at the normal time of 2.40pm, reopening at the normal time of 8.35am on Monday 13 April. There will be a number of revision sessions taking place for Years 11, 12 and 13, the timetables can be found [here](#). Year 10 revision timetables have been sent home with the students.

### **Change to the academy day**

As we have done in previous years, there will be a change to the academy day when we return in April. To support Year 11 students who will be starting their formal examinations, Year 11 will move to Break A and Lunch A. This is to allow them to start their afternoon exams straight after their lunch break to avoid a late finish. This enables us to run exam warmups before students go into the exams, but also reduces the number of late finishes, which is really appreciated by the students when the exams come at them thick and fast over the exam period. The main change impacts on Year 10, who will not have access to the Tech Plaza over lunch until the middle of June when the exams come to an end.

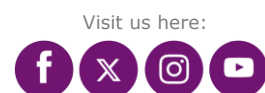
### **You said, we did**

In Half Term 4, the focus of parent/carers and student feedback was around attendance and the communication from the academy. As part of the national drive to improve attendance post Covid, the Department for Education provide several webinars, procedures and draft letters to use to promote good attendance. The academy attendance when compared to “similar” schools is above average but is still below the national average and something we are working hard to address.

The students get a strong quality of education when on site and so we want to maximise this to ensure they leave with the qualifications they are capable of. Some of the feedback in the survey mentioned the over communication of attendance and some parents/carers fed back that the tone of the letters could be improved when a student’s attendance is below a certain level. I have taken this on board and as a leadership team we are currently reviewing the letters that are sent out to ensure the tone is correct. Many of them are taken from examples of good practice provided by the Department for Education but will look to see where these could be personalised.

### **TikTok trend**

We are aware that a TikTok trend from a few years ago has become popular again where students use magnets to make it look like they have a tongue piercing. This is incredibly dangerous, swallowing the magnet can then cause significant health issues. Please speak to your child about this, we will be discussing it with students in assemblies



Principal: Mr P Willerton

### Parent Governor

Following my letter sent on Friday 20 March, the academy is looking for a parent/carer to join our Governor Challenge Board. If you have any queries about the role, please do not hesitate to contact me. The Governors are looking for a parent/carer with strong local community links.

### Home Learning

Home learning continues to form an integral part of our academic offer. Tasks set for students are closely aligned to their lessons and designed to help students consolidate and rehearse what they have learned in preparation for their tracking assessments. Please can I remind parents/carers of the importance of supporting your child in completing these tasks, by creating a quiet space for them to work. If your child is finding home learning difficult, please speak with their Achievement Leader, who can explore a range of short-term adjustments to support them.

### Standards (a regular reminder):

We firmly believe that students' 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 ensure that the staffs focus can be 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 in a number of students wearing fake eye lashes and nails which has led to them being taken out of lessons until these are removed. Please support the academy by making sure these are removed before your child attends.

### Return Dates

All students will return at the normal time of 8.35am on Monday 13 April.

I hope that everyone enjoys a restful break.

Yours faithfully



P Willerton  
Principal

Our Values:



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