

Our ref: MMC/NWI

26 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach this important point in the academic year, I would like to thank our families, staff, and community for their continued support in helping our students thrive. It has been a term marked by resilience, ambition, and achievement—from strong year 11 trial exam outcomes and excellent engagement with revision platforms, to valuable careers experiences and a wide range of enrichment opportunities.

We are equally proud of successes beyond the classroom, including sporting achievements, an outstanding production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, and enriching educational visits. Our students have also demonstrated strong community values through fundraising and leadership opportunities.

Thank you for your ongoing support, particularly in maintaining high attendance, and we wish you all a restful Easter break as we look ahead to a successful summer term.

Teaching and Learning

Spring SEND Individual Education Plan Reviews

Thank you to families who attended our IEP reviews over the past two weeks. Year 7 and 10 IEP reviews will run alongside Parents' Evening. Year 7 reviews will take place on Tuesday 14 April and year 10 reviews will take place on Tuesday 28 April. You will receive an invitation to this nearer the time to book an appointment via the parents evening booking system.

Year 11 Trial Examination Results

After an incredibly busy half term of both trial and practical examinations, we were thrilled to share students' incredible results with them on Thursday morning. Each student received their results individually and had an opportunity to discuss their results with a member of the Year 11 tutor team or the senior leadership team to celebrate their success and identify next steps for the final weeks ahead. To support with this, students also revisited the Easter Achieve sessions to ensure they are signed up to the sessions that are most important to them.

As always, we appreciate the superb investment of students and the relentless support of parents and carers alongside expert teaching as we approach the final weeks of year 11.

Tassomai

In years 10 and 11, students' investment in Tassomai continues to be impressive, with over 290 hours of quizzing and over 71,000 questions answered last week!

In year 10, we have launched a rewards strategy, where students who achieve 100% of their weekly goals in all subjects will receive a sticker to help them build a seven-a-side football team of subject leaders.



Sparx

As an academy, we have completed over 6,500 hours of personalised learning, answered a half a million questions correctly and over 310 students have improved their times table fluency this year. We thank every parent and carer for their support and encouragement in completing Sparx mathematics tasks.

Students in year 10 and year 11 should continue completing weekly mathematics Tassomai tasks. This creates the "little and often" revision needed for success in mathematics. Year 10 exam paper revision tasks continue this week, handing out and being returned every Thursday period 4.

We thank all parents for their continued support with mathematics home learning tasks.

Careers

Year 10 had a fantastic morning working with EE on understanding 'The Modern Interview'. Students learnt from 6 of their employees about different types of interview styles from task-based interviews, presentation interviews, call interviews and more traditional question and answer interviews. This is valuable skills and knowledge that students can take forward into the work ready programme and their future careers.

Our Better Learners Better Workers programme continues with year 9 students attending the STEM Fair at Magna where they were exposed to a range of careers within the STEM industry from the Army, the rail to McLauren. This immersive engagement gave our students an insight into the STEM careers that could be available to them when they leave school.

This week, the careers department has spent time at St Mary's Catholic Primary School as part of their career's week, where we spoke to year 6 about what to expect from careers when they transition up to secondary school in September.

Sports Fixtures

Y8/9 Girls Football

On Wednesday 25 March, our year 8/9 girls team played against Hayfield Academy, despite very challenging conditions, with strong winds making play unpredictable and the ball difficult to control, the team showed great determination and resilience throughout. The girls went into half time with a strong 2-0 lead, demonstrating excellent teamwork and composure. Hayfield fought back in the second half, and with 15 minutes remaining the score was level at 2-2. However, the team continued to push forward, and with just 5 minutes left before the final whistle, Alyssa stepped up to secure the win. With great support from Marvellous and Lily up front, who both played a key role in the build-up, the team managed to clinch a well-deserved **3-2** victory. **WOTM: Evie and Marvellous**

An amazing performance from all involved — well done to the entire team!

Events

School Production

Our recent school production of *Little Shop of Horrors* was a tremendous achievement and a true success. Performing to two packed audiences, the cast delivered outstanding performances, culminating in a well-deserved standing ovation on the second night.

We are incredibly proud of our students, whose hard work, resilience, commitment, camaraderie, and talent shone throughout the entire process. Their dedication both on and off the stage was remarkable.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our staff, families, friends, and members of the wider community for their continued support—it made a real difference.



The Performing Arts team, who, although exhausted, are absolutely beaming with pride at what has been achieved through such fantastic teamwork.

Lake District Visit

On Thursday 26 March, our year 12 Geography students visited the Lake District as part of their studies. Students viewed locations which have been affected by glaciation and experienced a range of data collection strategies, which can be used as part of their NEA.

The Talent Foundry

On Friday 27 March, we will welcome in The NHS Talent Foundry to work with 50 of our year 7 students. They will be guided through NHS Careers, nursing qualifications, pathways into the NHS and much more. We look forward to welcoming our visitors in and are sure it will have a positive impact on the aspirations of our young people.

Paris Visit

On Friday 27 March, some of our year 9, 11 and 12 students will be travelling to Paris. This 4-day trip will include visits to iconic landmarks such as Sacre Cour, Eiffel Tower, River Seine, Arc de Triomphe and the Stade de France. The trip will allow students to engage in an exceptional learning experience that will allow them to explore France's 'city of light' whilst encountering French culture first-hand.

House Update

Students competed in our 'old-school sports day' event on Friday 20 March and were fantastic! Students competed in a range of sporting activities with tug-of-war being a favourite! Throughout the day, we additionally sold Red Nose Day themed cupcakes and had our 'guess the teacher' baby photo competition.

In total, we have been able to raise **£460** through the variety of fundraising events that have been on offer—thank you to everybody who has donated to make this possible!

Since the start of this academic year, the academy is approaching a total of **£3000** raised for the various charities that we support, both within the local community and nationally.

Thank you for all your support with our fundraising pledge!

This week, we have announced the winners of our Prime Minister elections. Students delivered a speech in our house assemblies where they were able to outline their manifesto and what they wanted to achieve if they were elected and have been democratically elected by their peers. Congratulations to Rosie S and Maja D, both in Y8, who have been elected as Deputy Prime Minister; congratulations also to Joe Y in Y9 who has been elected as our Prime Minister!

Attendance

We are really pleased to allow students to attend school tomorrow in non-school uniform as a whole-school reward for their collective attendance.

It is extremely important that students and families work hard to ensure that attendance remains as high as possible, so that no learning time is lost. In school, an attendance figure of 90% or below is a serious concern. Over the course of a school year, this equates to around 19 missed school days and over 100 hours of learning time.

This level of absence means that children are at a disadvantage compared to their peers, both within school and across the country.



As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M McDonald
Principal

