

Our ref: MMC/GHR

22 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

This week has seen three of our students accepted on to the Reach Higher Organisation, who will support them with their applications to Russell Group and Oxbridge universities. This is a fantastic achievement and a perfect example of having high aspirations. We talk to all our young people regularly about the fact that they are often capable of more than they think they are, and one of my biggest fears is that our young people do not fulfil their real potential. We work hard to continually improve as an academy and below are examples of how we raise aspirations and support our young people on a daily basis.

Teaching and Learning

Our Year 11 students have continued to complete practical examinations this week in a range of subjects, including Food and Music. As we enter the final weeks before the summer examinations, it has been amazing to see students demonstrating such excellent levels of investment and performing to such a high standard.

Events and Enrichment

Higher Education Outreach

Fifty of our Year 10 students had a taste of university life at Sheffield University on Monday this week. They had such an inspiring day taking part in sessions to understand that university is for all before checking out the extensive range of courses available to them which included surfing, e-sports, robotics - anything and everything you can imagine! They also found out how student finance works and learned of the additional help students from all backgrounds can receive to enable everyone to study at a higher level.

Better Learners, Better Workers Magna Visit

On Wednesday, our Student Ambassadors for the Better Learners, Better Workers programme visited MAGNA for an event focusing on careers within STEM. There were over 200 stalls including engineering companies, the Army, the fire brigade, electrical engineering, and McLaren. The students represented themselves incredibly well whilst visiting the stalls before taking in a tour of the museum.

An Audience with Louise Bloor

On Wednesday afternoon, we had the pleasure of welcoming secondary students from across the trust to take part in our 'An Audience with Louise Bloor - Senior Women's Nutritionist at the FA. SENR' After some initial input activities from Mr Walker, focusing on the importance of nutrition and a balanced diet, Louise discussed her journey from being a student at Maltby school to becoming the nutritionist for the Lionesses, and getting a front row seat in Australia for the Women's World Cup final.

Photography Trip to The Royal Armouries, Leeds

This week, it was the turn of our Year 10 students currently studying GCSE Photography to enjoy a trip to the Royal Armouries in Leeds to produce a body of work which will contribute significantly towards their GCSE Exam unit. All students explored the museum, taking in all the exhibitions and using all the displays and artefacts in their photographs creatively. All students represented the academy brilliantly and got a great deal out of the day to support their studies.

Tickets for Matilda the Musical Jr.

There is still time to get your hands on tickets for STWA's production of Matilda the Musical Jr. They are selling out fast, but some are still available to purchase on ParentPay at a cost of £5 per ticket. There are two evenings to choose from to see the show: Wednesday 27 March and Thursday 28 March - please make sure you choose the right one on ParentPay to ensure we have the correct numbers. The cast cannot wait to perform this production and have been working so hard to perfect their performances ready for an audience to watch them.

House Updates

This week, we have held our house assemblies with students in all year groups being able to unite as one house to share the successes from the previous half term. Students have been awarded for their contributions towards completing their pledges and have been able to focus on one of the key characteristics of their house identity. Students in Cusworth are still holding the first-place position in our competition for house points, but the other houses are rapidly closing the gap!

Standards

We would like to remind all parent/carers of the uniform expectations within the academy. We have seen a rise in students wearing jewellery during the day. After Easter, if a student is found with a piece of jewellery on, this will be placed into an envelope for you to come and collect at main reception. Students will not be able to remove this and keep it on them.

We would also like to remind parent/carers that student must wear full black socks to the academy and that the wearing of ankle socks is not permitted.

Rewards

Students who have gained at least 360 net positive behaviour points and have at least 92% attendance over the course of the school year so far will shortly be invited to select a first, second and third preference for the upcoming Golden Ticket reward events which will be held in the first week back after the Easter break.

The first is "Bowling and a Burger", which is a ticket to play bowling and have a burger at Tenpin in Doncaster during the week commencing Monday 15 April. The second is the Easter Cinema event, which will be a film screening held in school during P3 on Tuesday 16 April. Students will be provided with popcorn and a drink. The third event is "Ready Steady Cook", in which 30 lucky students will take part in a cooking masterclass in school on Tuesday 16 April during P3.

Parents of children who have attained a Golden Ticket have received a ClassCharts message in which students can rank their choices of Golden Ticket events from 1st to 3rd choice, and we will do our best to accommodate as many first choices as possible.

We will communicate which students are taking part in each event before the Easter break.



SLT Detentions

A clear and consistently enforced sanction system is crucial to the functioning of exceptional schools. With this in mind, we have made the decision to enforce SLT detentions on each Monday and Friday. SLT detentions will commence from the first week back and will run from 2:50pm to 4:50pm. This significant level of sanction will be enforced for students who do not attend a C4 detention. Parents will be informed if their child has a SLT detention via ClassCharts.

Post 16

Reach Higher Programme

Post 16 works in collaboration with the Linacre Institute to facilitate the Reach Higher programme to our students. The programme aims to support students with their high aspirations of applying to Russell Group and Oxbridge universities. 3 of our Year 12 students were recently accepted onto the programme despite spaces on the programme being highly competitive. Congratulations to Rorie, Grace and Ben!

Yours faithfully

Mr M McDonald
Principal

