

Our ref: MMC/NWI

10 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

This week, GCSE examinations commenced for all Year 11 students, and we are incredibly proud of how prepared our students are and the way in which they have conducted themselves throughout the year. Although the next six weeks will be challenging, this is a period that will help to shape our students' futures, and we truly believe our students are ready to rise to the challenges that they will face.

I want to make you aware that the examinations will have a minor impact on the running of the Academy. For example, some classrooms will be used to accommodate exams access arrangements. This may mean that some students will take lessons in classrooms that are not their normal rooms. This will be communicated with students each tutor time and changes will be displayed on the green boards around the Academy site.

Feedback

We value the input of parents and carers in helping us to achieve our intent of delivering exceptional learning experiences. Throughout this academic year, we have asked you about your thoughts on the transition process, homework and how you would like the PCAB meetings to run. Using **your feedback, we have:**

- Adjusted our approach to the **24/25 transition process** to ensure that it is even more inclusive.
- Added in additional **rewards for homework** and requested that there's more variety in the range of tasks set by teachers.
- Amended the **PCAB agenda** to ensure it reflects your most pertinent issues and concerns.

As part of an **incentive to participate**, every parent or carer that participates in each survey will be entered into a prize draw for a **£40 ASDA voucher**. Winners will be announced, along with the preliminary findings of the survey, within ten days after the survey has closed.

This half term, we'd like to ask you about safeguarding: this is our utmost priority when your child is in our care and we're keen to find out your thoughts on how we're doing and how we can be even better.

Our safeguarding survey is now open for completion: [PARENT/CARER SAFEGUARDING SURVEY](#)

The survey takes no longer than **three minutes to complete** and will be hugely informative as we reflect and refine our practice. The deadline for the survey has been extended to **Monday 20th May**.

As part of the survey, you will be asked whether you give permission for us to contact you for a follow up discussion. We will select a sample of parents and carers from those who give permission for a qualitative follow-up conversation to clarify and further explore lines of enquiry raised by the survey.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Teaching and Learning

French Speaking Exams

After a Saturday Revision session which was very well attended, the GCSE French Speaking Exams took place. This challenging exam is worth 25% of the total GCSE and is the culmination of many years of



practice and hard work. If you have ever undertaken a language exam before, you will remember how stressful it can be. The students applied themselves maturely and creditably to their exam. Bravo la Seconde!

Each student has been provided with a bespoke Achieve timetable (which has also been shared with parents and carers via ClassCharts), which outlines the sessions students are expected to attend to ensure they are fully prepared for each examination, including weekend and May Half Term sessions. On the morning before each examination, students are invited to attend Prepare to Achieve sessions from 7.30am, where breakfast will be provided, and subject experts will be on hand to support final preparations and answer any questions. Additional marginal gains are also in place to support students, including water bottles, sweets and pens specifically chosen by each individual student.

We know our students have been thoroughly prepared and they are destined to achieve greatness. The level of support that students have received from members of staff and parents and carers is phenomenal, so we would like to thank everyone for their continued commitment, and we look forward to celebrating students' results with them in the summer.

Reading Testing

As a school, we know the importance of being able to read competently and confidently. It is a valuable life skill which we practice in all subjects. Before the Easter holidays, students in years 7 to 10 completed another round of reading testing. The data is looking incredibly positive, with a considerable proportion of students making notable progress. Across years 7 to 10, we have seen a significant increase in students working at greater depth beyond their actual age. Not only do we focus on challenging students' reading skills, we also ensure we support those who need it. From this week, those who require additional reading support will access it during tutor time, either through small group intervention or by being placed in a reading tutor group staffed by English teachers. If your child will be accessing the provision, you will receive a ClassCharts message.

House Updates

As an academy, we consistently drive our house system to ensure that students are exposed to a range of opportunities where they can partake in healthy competition. Throughout this half term, Cusworth have held onto their first place position with an incredible 10,452 house points with Wentworth closely following in second place with 8723 house points. Brodsworth and Chatsworth are still fighting for the third place position; everything is still up for grabs!

This half term, we have launched our John the Bear Character Education book competition where students, in their tutor groups, are producing their own books which will be used at Tickhill Road Hospice. Each house is competing against each other to produce the best book; there will be one winner from each house where tutors and their tutees will attend an awards ceremony at the Hospice to celebrate their success. Each book will be a part of a fundraising campaign at the hospice to support staff and patients; it is vital that all students are partaking in their creation of the book which in turn will allow them to earn house points.

Additionally, as we progress into the final term, we will host our end of year house trip where students in the winning house will be taken to Xscape to play 4D mini-golf and Laser Quest. Students can still complete: box tasks, online quizzes, weekly wins and the John the Bear competition to earn their house points!

Standards

I would once again like to take the opportunity to remind parents and carers of the uniform expectations below:

Uniform standards remain exemplary, and we thank students for following the uniform policy. As part of the high standards set out in the uniform policy, there are expectations for makeup and jewellery. Make-up should not be noticeable and should always be light, natural looking and discreet. Dark highlighted eyebrows, bright coloured lipstick, dark foundation, highlighter, fake tan, painted nails, nail extensions, gel nails or false eyelashes are not allowed to be worn under any circumstances. The only item of jewellery



permitted is a watch. This item must be removed for practical activities. No jewellery permitted including earrings, rings, spacer piercing retainers or tongue/nose piercings.

We are pleased to share with parents and carers that our uniform items can now be purchased from Cliffs at Doncaster. Items can be purchased online at www.schoolwearsolutions.com

Lateness to lessons

Some students are arriving late to lessons, which is highly disruptive to the learning of other students. Please be aware that any late arrivals to lessons will now be sanctioned with a same day 30-minute detention. Parents and carers will be alerted of this via Class Charts.

Internship Opportunity for a Year 11 Student

Waterstones of Doncaster are offering the opportunity for young adults to participate in a paid internship at the store this summer. If your child is interested, please ask them to speak with Miss B Darke or Miss N Carter for further details.

Yours faithfully

Mr M McDonald
Principal

