



Dear Parents /Carers

As you recall, I wrote to you at the beginning of September to share with you how proud I was regarding the exceptional start made by students at the Academy. I am really pleased to inform you that this momentum has been maintained and we continue to grow from strength to strength. Indeed, we have seen plethora of exciting events and successes this half term some of which I would like to share with you.

The Festival of Flags

A number of Year 7 and 8 students excitedly represented the Academy at the Festival of Flags on the 15th September 2018. They thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon of fun, music, food and stalls with the event being live on BBC radio. The event was in aid of the Queen's Commonwealth Trust which champions funds and connects young leaders who are working to change the world. A number of local dignitaries were also in attendance.

English

The English team have been planning a visit to a Gothic library for some time now and were so pleased when over sixty Year 9 students signed up to go. On the 5th October they finally got to visit the "John Rylands" library in Manchester. They all had a wonderful day and we have received so much positive feedback from the staff at the library, parents/carers and students. The students who attend were a credit to both the Academy and their parents/carers.

Open Evening/Week

We proudly held our annual Year 6 Open Evening on the 11th October 2018. This event followed over fifty individualised appointments with prospective parents that same week! The evening was planned to be bigger and better than previous years and our school community did not fail to disappoint! We had fifty prefects and over two hundred students staying behind to support the event. Our Head Girl and Boy did an amazing job at being "Masters of Ceremonies" by leading the main introductions. Staff also went above and beyond with a number of beautiful speeches, and wonderfully decorated rooms with fascinating and engaging activities on offer. I was so pleased to see the number of prospective parents on that evening - our largest number to date with over 500 visitors!

Primary Transition

This half term has also seen over 330 primary school children coming to Trentham Academy to enjoy our facilities and activities in Science and Modern Foreign Languages. The students came across the City some of which were Oakhill Primary School, Priory CE Primary School, Ash Green Primary Academy, St Joseph's Preparatory School, The Meadows Primary Academy and Clarice Cliff Primary School.





iPad distribution evening

On the 26th September Year 7 excitedly queued with their parents/carers to collect their iPads. One parent did say it was like collecting an early Christmas present! Trentham Academy is proud to be an Apple school and this technology continues to support our young people's learning both in school and at home.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Building on the success of the last four years (over 35 students last year gaining their Bronze and Silver Awards) recruitment for year 9 participants occurred on 10th October 2018. Over sixty students with their parents/carers were in attendance to see how this award can inspire young people to volunteer, take part in physical activities, enhance life skills, take part in expeditions and have an achievement award that is valued by employers and universities. This award continues to go from strength to strength in the Academy.

Sporting success

Our under 13s Rugby team have been crowned county champions this year. They competed with passion and determination to beat all teams from across the area. Well done to all those who took part. All our football teams remain unbeaten in County Cup and City Cup competitions and our U16 Hockey team beat Excel Academy 1-0. We have had a number of victories in cross country competitions and I am so pleased that the Year 10 and 11 teams are now City Champions. Once again, a fantastic set of sporting results for the Academy.

GCSE Pod and Resources

With our year 9 and year 10 students starting GCSE courses, now is the time to remind you about GCSE Pod, the fantastic resource we have available for our students through Firefly. GCSE Pod is a collection of short video tutorials and questions, for all topics and subjects across school. GCSE Pod can be used for the constant revisiting and reviewing of learning that we expect from GCSE students and also is great for looking ahead in a subject, allowing students to develop a deeper understanding of a topic area in lessons.

Students must access GCSE Pod through Firefly:

- 1. Click resources > GCSE Pod > Podcast Resources**
- 2. Click the GCSE Pod 'Visit GCSE Pod now'**
- 3. Choose 'My Courses' to look at your subjects and find videos**





Uniform update

Following the drive to improve uniform standards at the start of this academic year I am pleased to inform you that the majority of students look incredibly smart and are wearing their uniform with great pride. I would like to thank both students and Parents/Carers for your ongoing support with this matter.

However, after eight weeks there remains a very small minority of students wearing inappropriate footwear. Footwear needs to be formal, dress style, black, polishable leather shoes and not pumps or trainers (e.g. logos such as Adidas, Nike, Vans or Converse). Whilst we have endeavoured to be supportive and flexible during the first half term, Parents/Carers of students with inappropriate footwear need to ensure that this is resolved for the start of next half term (6th November). Failure to do so could result in your child being isolated from the general student population until the matter is resolved. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parent/carers of students in Years 8 – 10 that Trentham Academy official trousers need to be worn as of January 8th 2019.

Staffing update

We have two new staff members joining us after the half term break. Mr Buys will be joining the Mathematics Department and Mr O'Mullane the Modern Foreign Language Department. Both are really looking forward to being part of the Trentham Academy community and we look forward to welcoming them to the Trentham Family.

It is with a heavy heart that I have to inform you that two fabulous members of staff are leaving us for new ventures. Firstly, our Music teacher Mr Henry. He will be sorely missed by staff, students' and Parents/Carers. We sincerely wish him well for the future. We have currently secured two members of staff to deliver our Music curriculum.

Our Deputy Head teacher Mr Morris will also be leaving the Academy today. Mr Morris has given 12 loyal years of service and has had a major impact on driving standards forward at our Academy. He has been instrumental in maintaining high standards of student behaviour and has ensured that our young people have been cared for and safe during his tenure with us. He will be greatly missed by staff, students and Parents/Carers and we wish him the very best of luck for his future adventures.





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Thank you for your ongoing support for the Academy and the positive feedback that I receive regularly. I wish all the students in the Academy an enjoyable, safe and restful half term break and hope that you can spend some quality family time together.

I look forward to seeing the students on Tuesday 6th November.

Yours sincerely

Mike Whittingham
Headteacher

