

Trentham Academy

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23 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

This has been an extremely difficult time for our community but despite it all, everyone has worked together and once again had a very successful start to the year. This began with our new Year 7 students spending time in the Academy in August; these days were enjoyed by staff and students and helped to settle our Year 7s into academy life. When September arrived, the Year 7 students arrived with confidence and were raring to go.

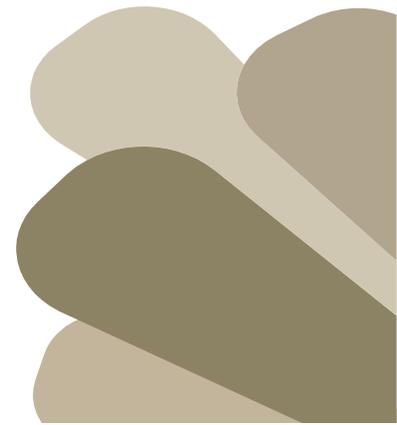
Student Achievements

I cannot write to you at this time without recognising the excellent way in which students have adapted to the new systems and procedures that have been necessary in the Academy. It is a testament to their resilience and adaptability in these challenging times and we thank you for your support. Attendance at the Academy should also be celebrated with an average of 95% every day this half term.

We also celebrate the achievements of the students in a range of activities:

One of our Year 8 girls entered a National Art competition with over 31,000 entries and she was selected as a prize winner and received a letter from the Queen. We were thrilled for her and so proud of her achievement.

Students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award have been able to complete this after missing out during lockdown. Although it rained constantly during their Saturday expedition, the students taking part showed such resilience and commitment to reach the end of their walk and once again demonstrated our Academy values of responsibility and optimism. We were extremely proud of all the students that took part. The staff that we have at the Academy have continued to go above and beyond to support the opportunities for our children and several members of staff joined the students on their Duke of Edinburgh weekend. Look out for details after half term about the 2020/21 Duke of Edinburgh Award which will be open for Year 9 and 10 students to join.



Our Year 11 students took part in an English Master Class with the English Excellence Partnership last Saturday morning. Miss Jackson and Miss Stokes were there to support our students in a virtual session. They both spoke so passionately about our students and the work they produced which was extremely pleasing to hear. We were also crowned City Champions of the GCSE pod English competition for Year 11. We had the top 3 performing students at Trentham Academy and all of them received their gift voucher and award at the end of one of our Walking Talking Mocks. Once again, our students were a credit to our Academy.

Students have also taken part in additional Mathematics engagement sessions run by the Mathematics Excellence partnership in Years 10 and 11 on 2 occasions this half term and enjoyed their experience. Once again thanks to our superb Maths staff for giving up their free time to ensure our students could take part in these activities.

Our Head students have embraced their new roles and we were delighted to see them speak so confidently to our prospective parents during our virtual open evening for Year 6 families. Students from all year groups also contributed, including our new students in Year 7. If you haven't seen the students' video clips, I encourage you to watch them and share these with your friends as they truly capture the enthusiasm of our students talking about Trentham Academy <https://www.trenthamacademy.co.uk/parentscarers/virtual-open-event/>

Remembrance

Mr Bailey will be leading our Remembrance assemblies after half term and our Head students will also lay a wreath at the Trentham Mausoleum and War Memorial. We intend to record this mark of respect and share it with our community.

The Reverend Adrian Stone has asked that I share his invitation to their virtual Remembrance Service which will take place on Zoom on Sunday 8th November via this link at 10.45am (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5844886699>)

Trentham Academy Standards

We have written to you separately this week regarding our high expectations of PE uniform and we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some aspects of the full Academy uniform requirements. We are very proud of our uniform and it is important all students adhere to the uniform policy. Now the weather is colder, students need a coat and a plain black jumper if they are cold. Students cannot combine items of PE kit, such as the hoodie, with their normal uniform.

Masks

The majority of students now wear masks as a matter of routine in the communal areas of the Academy. Some still need reminding of their importance in mitigating risk and we ask that you continue these conversations at home to support us. Whilst students with asthma do not have to wear a face covering and are provided with an exemption card to use if they wish, we read with interest information from Asthma UK suggesting that wearing a mask is possible for most asthma sufferers. We invite you to read this website and decide with your child whether wearing a mask is possible for them <https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/triggers/coronavirus-covid-19/what-should-people-with-asthma-do-now/should-i-wear-a-face-mask-or-face-covering/>



Our student Eco-group are also keen to encourage the use of washable face masks in their drive to reduce unnecessary waste which is increased through the frequent use of disposable masks.

Student Equipment

The half term break is an ideal time to restock student equipment. One of the features of our Covid risk strategy is to significantly reduce the sharing of equipment. If students do not arrive at the Academy with all the equipment they need, this becomes very difficult. Please support the Academy by ensuring your child has all the items listed below and they remember to bring them, regardless of which uniform they are wearing. All key items are available to purchase from the main office and students arriving without equipment will be asked to do this.

Your pencil case will need a minimum of:

- 3 or more black and blue pens for written work
- 2 or more green pens for additional work and feedback
- 2 or more pencils for graphs and other drawings
- A gluestick
- 4 or more coloured pencils
- A Scientific Calculator (see recommendations on our website)
- A ruler, preferably 30cm and in good condition
- A rubber
- A highlighter pen
- A protractor
- A pencil sharpener

Contact Details

We have had a number of instances recently where we have been unable to contact parents/carers because contact details have changed but have not been updated with the Academy. If you change your home address, email address, phone numbers or emergency contacts can you please phone or email the Academy so we can amend our records. I know you will appreciate the importance of being able to contact you quickly in an emergency.

Academy Information

We are working hard on further developing our communication systems for the Academy. One aspect of this is our drive on our social media content which we use to keep our community up to date with all the Academy news and events. Can I request therefore that you follow the Academy on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram as this will allow you to see Academy news as it happens. We have also increased the number of phone line options and this will continue to improve our response time to phone calls. Thank you for all the feedback in this area as it really does allow us to continue to support you further. We are also working hard to continue to update and improve our website; please take time to have a look around at all the information available to you.



Year 11

A reminder that there will be no period 6 sessions in the first 3 weeks of the half term as students will be taking mock examinations in this time. Revision links are available on the website in the student resources section, as are our tips and hints on how to revise - <https://www.trenthamacademy.co.uk/staff-student-resources/how-to-learn-and-revise-effectively/>.

It is crucial that students prepare well and take the mock examinations seriously; the possibility still remains that we may need the evidence to make firm and fair judgements should teacher assessments be requested for any part of their courses. Therefore, please support your child in ensuring they work hard over half term as everything they do will make a difference to their eventual outcome. When we receive any further details relating to exams from the Government or Ofqual, I will write to you again and publish the appropriate information on our website. We have worked hard with the IT department to ensure students can now access Firefly throughout half term for their revision so they will not be affected by the IT update.

Full Break Service

On our return after half term, we will be operating a full break-time service for all year groups; this will be from the canteen for Years 8-11 and Year 7 will continue in their zone.

Students queue in separate areas and are allowed into the canteen in year groups only, to protect the bubble arrangements we have in place.

Please use the Gateway App or website to top up your child's account for lunch and break service; your support with this it is very much appreciated.

Spark Day Resources

Friday, 23 October is a remote learning day for students; we have provided relevant Personal, Social, Health and Enterprise resources on Firefly. Students may prefer to complete this during half term.

Other Covid Risk Mitigation

We have had an increasing number of parents coming into the Academy to drop off items students have forgotten. Usually, we would welcome this extra support you are offering to your child but we must ask that parents/carers do not come onto the Academy site except for pre-arranged meetings, or in an emergency. In order to protect the safety of our staff and students, we cannot accept any visitors into the Academy without the completion of a Covid risk document. This is not possible if visitors arrive without prior notice.

We will also be organising a deep clean to take place over the half term holidays to all areas of the Academy to further support our risk mitigation.

Travel Information

We would like to remind all parents of the importance of advising the Academy if students will be travelling, or have travelled anywhere in the UK or abroad across the half term week. This is of key importance in enabling us to keep our communities safe and well, across the half term break



and when we return on 2nd November. Please see the links below for all Government updates on travelling abroad and on Covid alert levels and tiers of intervention in the UK, and advise the Academy of any planned/actual travel.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

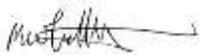
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know>

We thank all families for their support with this, enabling us to ensure that our community is kept safe and well on our return next week. It is vital that if any of your family or children develop symptoms and or test positive over the half term you immediately inform the Academy on Monday, 2 November before 10.00 am.

Finally

Thank you for your ongoing support during this challenging time. We continue to ensure your child receives a broad and balanced curriculum whilst mitigating any risk. We know this presents frustrations at times and we are grateful for your patience this term as we have shaped the day-to-day running of the Academy to best meet the needs of the whole community. Please encourage Year 11 to balance their time between mock examination preparation with time to relax and we look forward to seeing everyone back in the Academy on Monday, 2 November at 8.40 am after an enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely



Mike Whittingham
Headteacher

