

Dear Parent/Carer,

The first few weeks of the year have brought every season – icy rain, blistering sunshine, gale force winds and even a couple of hailstones – but it's been a really positive start. Thanks for playing your part in making it so.

Attendance

Mr Gallagher has written to all parents/carers a week or so ago about attendance being below where we would expect it to be. It is important - *the* most important thing that a parent can do - to make sure that your child attends school. Please help us to help your child succeed by ensuring that your child attends every day, without fail.

There are occasional reasons for absence which are unavoidable, but our Academy target of 97% is absolutely achievable for everyone. Whilst the mornings might be dark and miserable at the moment, with frost, wind and rain, students' attendance is crucial; it's so important that everyone is in, every single day.

Advent & Reverse advent calendar

Advent marks the beginning of the new church calendar and begins a four-week period of preparation for the nativity of Jesus Christ at Christmas. As an Academy, we place importance on developing students' knowledge and understanding of faiths and cultures so that they can appreciate the diversity of beliefs and cultures within our local community.

This half term the Academy is running a Reverse Advent Calendar. Rather than opening an Advent calendar and receiving a gift, students are encouraged to donate an item of food. The Academy will then collate the donations, and these will be taken to Fusion Foodbank in Dewsbury. In the UK many people go hungry and struggle to feed their families for many different reasons. The rising cost of living means that many people are now living below the poverty line and are unable to put food on the table. This has led to the increasing need for food banks. Should students wish to donate non-perishable food items or personal care products, these can be left in a collection box either outside Mr Burton's office or in the Academy library.



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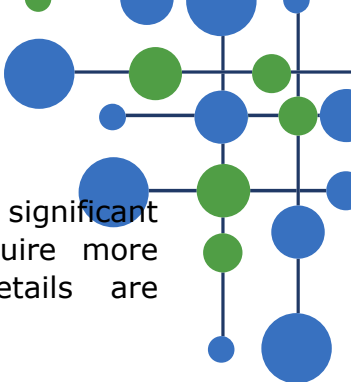
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The Fusion Foodbank in Dewsbury operates all year round and makes a significant difference to many individuals and their lives. Should you require more information about the service they offer, their contact details are <http://www.fusionhousing.org.uk> or telephone number 01924 454770

Year 11 mocks

Year 11's mock exams start on Monday, 15th January and run until Friday, 26th January. Students have been working hard this half term to prepare well for these – they are a great chance to practice exam technique and find out what is going well, and what bits still need some work!

More Good Days At School – year 8 and year 9

We are taking part in a research study run by the Anna Freud Centre around the best ways to support children's mental health in school. This will be a scheme running from January at TCA, for years 8 and 9. If you do not wish for your child to take part, please complete the form at <https://redcap.idhs.ucl.ac.uk/surveys/?s=4YWYX4WH7TPRFHMX> by Monday, 8th January.

End of term plans (and returning after the holidays)

Early notice that the Academy will close for the Christmas holidays on Friday 22nd December at 2pm, and will reopen for Spring term at 8.35am on Monday, 8th January.

Trips and visits

We are excited to let you know about an upcoming trip to the theatre for our Year 7 and Year 10 students, organised by the English Department. This trip is a valuable opportunity for your child to enhance their understanding of the texts *Macbeth* and *Frankenstein*, which they are currently studying in class. Students who are invited to join us on the trip have been given letters.

As ever, thanks for your help, feedback and support throughout a really busy term. I'm amazed at how quickly it's flown by! I know we're not at the end of term just yet, but in two weeks we'll be a third of the way through the academic year. Parental support is absolutely critical to making things work at TCA, and we certainly don't take it for granted.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Burton
Headteacher