

Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back after what I hope was a restful half term break for everyone. We come back to the 'second half' of the academic year, and it's back to business for every student and member of staff.

It's a busy half term, but another short one, and I hope that everyone has a positive five weeks as we move quickly on towards Easter (and the start of the year 11 final exams).

### **Attendance**

As always, I will start with highlighting the importance of attendance to everyone. Turning up every day is hugely important, and whilst the weather, minor illnesses and not feeling great might force some students to plead for a day off, it is really important that TCA staff and parents/carers work together to support your child to have excellent attendance.

Whilst 90% attendance might sound good, it actually equates to half a year's learning being lost across five years at secondary school (and one half term per year). If we can help at all to support you in getting your child to school, please get in touch with us. You will now be receiving weekly emails about your child's attendance. If you need anything clarifying or require any support, please do get in touch. Mr Gallagher, our Attendance Officer, is available to support families and can be reached by phone or email to Ben.Gallagher@sharemat.co.uk.

### **Change to training day**

Advance warning that the training day which was previously planned for Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 will now be held on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Unfortunately, a BTEC exam has now been planned for the initial date and it is important that the Academy runs completely as normal. To be clear, the training days (when TCA will be closed to students) for the rest of the year:

- Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April
- Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> June



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## Community Iftar

Thornhill Community Academy are hosting their first ever Iftar on the evening of Thursday 14th March 2024. This is a perfect opportunity for parents and students to gain an insight into why our fellow Muslim students fast during the month of Ramadan. The Iftar event is open to all students and families (Muslim and non-Muslim) in every year group. Doors open at 5:15pm, the event will begin at 5:30pm, fast opens at 6:13pm, followed by a prayer (for those who wish to). The event will culminate with the opportunity for all attendees to join for a hot meal. If you would like to attend, please contact the Academy by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

## Leeds Playhouse- Frankenstein Trip

We're excited to share the success of our recent trip to Leeds Playhouse with Year 7 students, where they experienced a captivating production of 'Frankenstein' which they will study and read in English next half-term. The students thoroughly enjoyed the performance, showcasing superb behaviour throughout the trip.

## Year 9 Options

Thank you for your support with the Options process so far. It was great to see so many of you at the parents' evening and have those all-important conversations about your child's next steps in education. A reminder that students must submit their Option Choices Form by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March. This should be submitted on Teams in the assignment section. If you have any questions about Options, please contact Mrs Rudd on [lucinda.rudd@sharemat.co.uk](mailto:lucinda.rudd@sharemat.co.uk).

## Year 11 Parents' Evening

A reminder that the final year 11 parents' evening takes place on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February. Please book appointments via SchoolCloud which is at <https://thornhillca.schoolcloud.co.uk>. It's important, in these final few weeks, that you are given a chance to discuss your child's progress. You are a key part of their success this summer and you can support them in the run up to their GCSEs – please come and see our teachers and find out just how to do that.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr Burton**  
Headteacher