

Friday, 24th October

Dear Parent/Carer,

Attendance

Again, a huge thank you for your support with attendance! You have played a massive part in making sure that overall attendance is going to be much higher than the first half term last year. That is really powerful in helping us to help your child. Making sure your child regularly attends school is one of the best things you can do for your child. Thank you for all your support.

Year group	2024/25 HT1	2025/26 HT1
7	96.6%	97.0%
8	94.5%	96.3%
9	91.1%	93.9%
10	92.8%	92.8%
11	92.5%	93.9%
Overall	93.6%	94.8%

Year 11 mock interviews - Friday 17th October

Our Year 11 Mock Interviews took place last Friday. Students were very impressive in discussing their plans with external visitors and they have had lots of lovely feedback. One of the visitors summarised the day, and our students, by saying 'I had an absolutely wonderful morning. Students were a credit to their school, and I left very inspired about the next generation!' Well done year 11 – I'm proud of you.

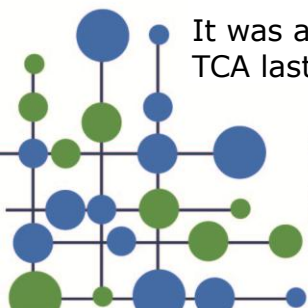
School Production- Matilda Jr

We are thrilled to announce that students have now been cast for our upcoming school production of *Matilda Jr!* We are so proud of everyone who auditioned – your talent and enthusiasm were incredible. It's not too late for students to be part of the show. Rehearsals take place every Thursday after school in the hall and run until 4.15pm.

Year 10 Restart A Heart Day

It was a pleasure to welcome paramedics from Yorkshire Ambulance Service to TCA last week to run the 'Restart A Heart' day for year 10 students. Every

Valley Drive, Thornhill, Dewsbury
WF12 0HE



student was given an important lesson in CPR, which is a really important skill which could, one day, help them to save a life.

Year 11 mock exams – Monday, 1st December – Friday, 12th December

It is only a few weeks until year 11 will sit their mock exams in December. These should be taken very seriously, and students should be revising at home to prepare for them. The grades from these examinations are used by colleges to decide whether to offer places, so students should take them very seriously. Your support with this is really important.

Making Payments to the Academy via Arbor

All payments to the Academy are now to be made through the Arbor app. This provides a safe and secure way for you to pay. At the moment, some Arbor meal accounts are in debt. If your child's account is, please make sure this is repaid as soon as possible. Please aim to keep your child's account in credit. If you experience any issues regarding making payments or accessing Arbor, please contact julia.wood@sharemat.co.uk.

Uniform expectations

I know that half term is sometimes the time to stock up on uniform after a busy few weeks. Please remember that our expectations are as follows and will not change.

Uniform item	Notes
Academy tie	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Available on Arbor, at TCA or from Rawcliffes, Dewsbury for £5
Academy blazer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Available from Rawcliffes, Dewsbury• Must be worn on corridors at all times
Black trousers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full length trousers must be worn• Not leggings, jogging bottoms, tracksuit bottoms, jeans, cycling short or jersey material• Not skin-tight fit• Trousers must be tailored and not shiny or stretchy
Black skirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be knee length• Not stretchy/jersey material• Must be worn with black tights
Black socks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be worn if wearing trousers
Black shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not trainers or pumps• Converse, Vans or anything made by a sportswear brand are not allowed
Salwar kameez	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the neck is visible, a shirt and tie must be worn• Must be black or dark blue with no patterns
School bag	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essential item – not negotiable• Must be big enough to carry PE kit, books and equipment

Jewellery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One ring • One small bracelet • One necklace (worn under the shirt)
Make up and piercings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One small stud or sleeper in each ear • One small nose stud (not in the septum) • No tongue piercings • Discreet make up • No false nails or false eyelashes

Stretchy trousers and leggings

Recently, we have seen an increase in the number of students wearing stretchy flared trousers and leggings in school. Neither of these are part of the uniform policy and should not be worn in school. We do not accept leggings of any kind, and trousers made of stretchy/jersey/shiny material are not permitted. We accept tailored trousers only. Please ensure your child is following our expectations and wearing the correct uniform items to avoid phone calls home for new uniform items and sanctions.

Educating Yorkshire

The final episode of the documentary series aired on Sunday night. Over two million people have been watching the episodes, which is very surreal to think about! I am really proud of lots about the series, but two things make me most proud: the fact that it has been so low profile in school and hasn't impacted on our work at all. The nation has seen the fantastic work of our students and staff and many people have been in touch about that.

Half term holidays

A reminder that the October half term holiday starts this Friday (24th October). The next half term – the run up to Christmas – starts at 8.30am on Monday, 3rd November.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Burton
Headteacher