

Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> January

Dear Parent/Carer,

It barely feels like a couple of days, let alone two whole weeks, since term ended in December. With a new year comes a new chance to make resolutions and plans for the year ahead. This term will fly by, and we want to make sure that your children benefit from every second of every minute of every hour at TCA. Week in, week out, your children do you proud – I am excited to step into 2026 to see their achievements.

### **Attendance**

Thanks for all of your support last term in making a positive start back. We have seen big improvements on last year's attendance, but the last few weeks were impacted by illness and people having occasional days off. We look forward to starting back in the right way this term. Remember, we can support mild illnesses with our medical room in school.

### **Year 11 mock exams**

A huge well done to year 11, who did a great job in their mock exams in December. They were treated to an end of mock exam pizza party in the last week of term. The hard work starts now January ahead of the GCSE exams in a few months' time.

### **Mobile phone update**

A letter came out during the final week of term about a change in our rules around students' mobile phones. This will happen from the first day back (today) in January. Please have a read at the link below. If you have any questions, please contact your child's Student Manager by email.

<https://tinyurl.com/tcalh>

### **Breakfast Club**

A reminder that all students can benefit from our completely free of charge breakfast club from 8am every single day. Students can get breakfast, a drink, have some quiet time to complete homework or catch up with friends. We often hear from parents who struggle to do different drop offs of their children at different schools – I would always suggest dropping your child off early for breakfast club to help.

### **Stretchy trousers and leggings**

Valuing people, supporting personal best

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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. 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.

### Uniform expectations

Uniform is important and we have reminded students about our expectations today as part of our half termly reset. Please remember that our expectations are as follows and will not change.

| Uniform item          | Notes   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Academy tie           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available on Arbor, at TCA or from Rawcliffes, Dewsbury for £5</li> </ul>  |
| Academy blazer        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available from Rawcliffes, Dewsbury</li> <li>Must be worn on corridors at all times</li> </ul>   |
| Black trousers        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full length trousers must be worn</li> <li>Not leggings, jogging bottoms, tracksuit bottoms, jeans, cycling short or jersey material</li> <li>Not skin-tight fit</li> <li>Trousers must be tailored and not shiny or stretchy</li> </ul> |
| Black skirt           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be knee length</li> <li>Not stretchy/jersey material</li> <li>Must be worn with black tights</li> </ul>   |
| Black socks           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be worn if wearing trousers</li> </ul>  |
| Black shoes           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not trainers or pumps</li> <li>Converse, Vans or anything made by a sportswear brand are not allowed</li> </ul>  |
| Salwar kameez         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the neck is visible, a shirt and tie must be worn</li> <li>Must be black or dark blue with no patterns</li> </ul>   |
| School bag            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essential item – not negotiable</li> <li>Must be big enough to carry PE kit, books and equipment</li> </ul>  |
| Jewellery             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One ring</li> <li>One small bracelet</li> <li>One necklace (worn under the shirt)</li> </ul>   |
| Make up and piercings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One small stud or sleeper in each ear</li> <li>One small nose stud (not in the septum)</li> <li>No tongue piercings</li> <li>Discreet make up</li> <li>No false nails or false eyelashes</li> </ul>                                      |

## **Pantomime visit**

It was great to take year 7 to see the annual Christmas pantomime – *Jack and the Beanstalk* - at Wakefield Theatre on Tuesday in the final week of term. Students loved it – some never having been to the theatre before – and staff had a great time too! Our students were brilliant as ever. I hope it helped to get them into the seasonal spirit and that encouraged them to have a superb Christmas break!

## **Community Christmas lunch**

It was lovely to welcome elderly residents and members of the local community to TCA on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December for our annual Christmas lunch. They were served and looked after by students from across all year groups, and it was a privilege to celebrate the start of the festive season with them.

On behalf of everyone at TCA, I wish you happy new year as we enter 2026. Life can feel very busy and years can fly by (especially with children navigating secondary school life). I hope you managed to have the chance to pause and reflect on the ups and downs of 2025 over the holidays. We are working on new year's resolutions this week so that 2026 is a terrific year!

Yours sincerely,



Mr Burton  
Headteacher

