

Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been another great week at TCA, and whilst the weather hasn't been the same as the sunny blue skies of the first week back, there have been plenty of smiles from our students as they get back into those learning routines. I've asked every student to focus on the 'ABC' for this year – excellent **attendance**, maintaining outstanding **behaviour** and maximising their impact in the **classroom** – and the start they have made has been excellent. I'm very proud.

### Attendance

Year 7 = 96.8%

Year 8 = 96.1%

Year 9 = 97%

Year 10 = 97.2%

Year 11 = 95.5%

Our Academy target is 97%, and most students are doing phenomenally well in achieving that. Our approach to attendance is that there are no excuses for poor attendance. Whilst there may be exceptional occasions where there is a good reason for an absence, most minor colds and illnesses – as long as they do not have COVID-19 symptoms associated – can be managed in the Academy.

### Punctuality

We have had an extremely positive start regarding punctuality. However, I would be very grateful if you could remind your child that they need to be through the top or bottom gates at 8.35 prompt as this is when the gates are locked. You will be notified of this if they are unable to manage this as they will have a 30 minute after school detention.

### COVID-19 vaccinations for 12 – 15 year olds

You will have read the letter that our CEO, Mr McNally, sent out earlier this week. As soon as we hear further information, we will be in touch, whether that is about consent forms or arrangements for the vaccinations. I must stress, though, that this will be a process which is run by the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS), who have a great deal of experience in vaccinating school-age children against a wide variety of illnesses.

### Open evening – Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> September

I can't wait to welcome prospective (and current) parents and carers back to TCA for the first open evening in two years next Thursday between 5pm and

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A SHARE Academy

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8pm. Please spread the word about what we do – work hard and be nice – and encourage friends, neighbours and family members to come and see what we do if they are looking for their children’s next secondary school. We’re really proud of TCA – and I can’t wait to show the community what it is I’m so proud of!

### **INSET day – Friday, 1st October**

This is marked on the Academy’s calendar already, but please remember that next Friday will be a teacher training day and the Academy will be closed to students.

### **Year 11 Period 7 sessions**

Well done to year 11 for a storming start to these sessions and to our brilliant English, Maths and Science teams for their hard work in preparing them. A reminder to all that these are compulsory and that any appointments should be made after they finish at 3.45pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

### **Home Learning**

Since Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September, students have been receiving home learning tasks across their subjects. These tasks are set in lessons and will be available centrally through MS Teams, as well as provided on paper where needed. More specific information about our new home learning policy has been provided in a letter which you will have received on Monday.

### **Remote Learning**

For any students isolating due to COVID-19, remote learning will be available from MS Teams as it was during the last academic year. If you or your child need any support with this, please visit the Covid-19 Education section of our website or contact your child’s Student Manager.

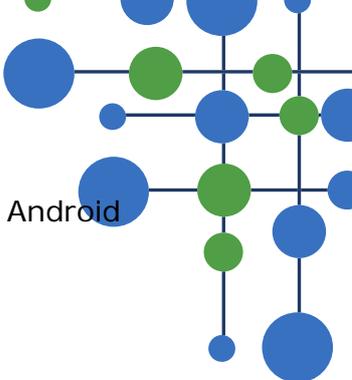
### **Double parking and considerate driving**

Thanks to those parents/carers who have heeded my request for more considerate driving and parking at the top and bottom gates. There does remain, however, a small minority who are parking in a highly inconsiderate way. Please do not double park, speed, park across crossings or block people’s drives. All these behaviours put your children – our students – at risk. The end of the day is always a busy time, and it runs much more smoothly if parents/carers play their part in that.

Arranging to meet your child a five to ten minute walk away would be beneficial for everyone – and there are plenty of spaces locally to do just that. Please be mindful of everyone’s safety.

### **Communication with the Academy**

The MyEd app is now active for all students. Please ensure we have your current mobile phone number.



Installing the My Ed app is easy. It is available for both Apple iOS and Android devices. Just follow the instructions below.

Step 1 - Go to your App Store

Step 2 - Search for My Ed

Step 3 - Download the Free app and search for Thornhill Community Academy, WF12 0HE

I look forward to seeing you next Thursday for Open Evening, and thanks for your ongoing support in ensuring an excellent start to the year.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr Burton**  
Headteacher