

Dear Parent/Carer,

It seems bizarre that a whole half term has been and gone now – the first bubble-free one in a long, long time. It has been fantastic to work with our brilliant students and families again, and the ABC of this year we asked everyone to work towards – excellent attendance, brilliant behaviour and world-class classrooms – is going superbly well. Classrooms and corridors are calm and purposeful; teachers are teaching, and students are learning. We are proud to work with your children – please do continue to work with us to ensure that working hard and being nice are at the core of what we all do.

Attendance this week was:

Year 7 = 96.8%

Year 8 = 94%

Year 9 = 94.9%

Year 10 = 95.8%

Year 11 = 96.6%

Attendance this term was overall:

Year 7 = 97.2%

Year 8 = 94.7%

Year 9 = 96%

Year 10 = 95.3%

Year 11 = 95.5%

This Monday, we had an incredible achievement of overall attendance at almost 98%. This is phenomenal. The hard work that goes into making attendance excellent comes from staff, students and parents. Let's make sure this continues. Particularly well done to Maariya P in 10RAM who came back from a visit to get to school in the afternoon and showed incredible maturity and dedication, and Shahbaz S in 8MSW, who came in following an appointment and showed fantastic dedication. Finally, huge well done to Sam H in 8SMW, whose attendance has improved by around 50% this half term. I'm really, really proud of you all.

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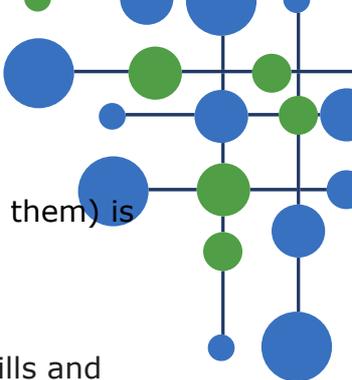
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Making appointments outside the Academy day (and coming in around them) is having a huge impact – please make sure that you continue to do this.

Everyone Reads In Class (ERIC)

The Academy is committed to the development of students' literacy skills and ERIC time is designed to further students' language acquisition and equip them with the literacy skills they will need for success in life.

Studies have shown that reading for pleasure is linked to improved success in life, greater self-confidence, better general knowledge and better health. In addition, those who read for pleasure make more progress in Maths between the ages of 10 and 16 than those who rarely read.

With this in mind, we are continuing Everyone Reads In Class or 'ERIC' time for students in years 7-9. In previous years ERIC has been enormously successful at promoting a love of reading and visits to the Library were at a record level. We have put together a timetable so that once a week, in either English or Maths, 20 minutes at the beginning of the lesson will be dedicated to reading for pleasure. Students in years 7-9 must have an ERIC book with them (either from the Library or from home) for this slot and failure to do so will result in a 30-minute same day detention.

Lateral flow tests and 12 – 15 COVID-19 vaccinations

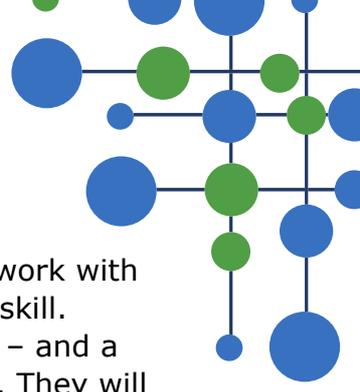
New packs of tests have been given out this week, and please do ensure that students who have given consent continue their twice weekly testing throughout the holidays. In addition, NHS England will soon be writing to all parents/carers of those students eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination to encourage them to participate in the programme. This will be out of school – as jabs have already been completed at TCA – but will outline ways in which your child is able to access their immunisation should they have missed it for any reason.

Sporting excellence

Huge congratulations to Mohammed P in 9RG whose footballing prowess has meant he continues to play football for Sheffield Wednesday and is receiving rave reviews. In addition, Ruby B in 7ALW is the county's polo gaming champion and rides to horses Misty and Toby (though, presumably, not at the same time). Both students are great examples of not only having outstanding attendance and behaviour and an excellent focus on their work at TCA, but achieving amazing things outside of school. We're very proud of you both – keep working hard.

Academic excellence

Our year 11 students continue to take advantage of academic opportunities outside of the classroom. A student in Year 11 submitted an essay about the future threats and opportunities within Computing as part of a Gov.uk national competition alongside university graduates. There were many excellent entries, but the essay was so accomplished, it was recognised as one of the best across the country and will be published alongside the top ten. Don't set limits for yourself – if you believe, you can achieve.



Restart a Heart Day

Last week, we had Yorkshire Ambulance Service into the Academy to work with our year 10 students on how to perform CPR – a vitally important life skill. Students' feedback was great – as was that of the Ambulance Service – and a huge thanks to Mrs Patel for organising the fantastic, important event. They will be back soon to work with many more of our year groups.

Please do take a moment to check out the website at <https://restartaheart.yas.nhs.uk> – you never know when you could have the chance to save someone's life.

TCA contribution to COP 26

A few weeks ago, we were asked to take part in filming a set of short videos to highlight our students' views on climate change and why they think it is an important topic. I'm delighted to report that contributions from Kathryn B in year 11 and Nathan H in year 9 will be used in the final video which will be shown at COP 26 in Glasgow in the coming weeks. It is an immense achievement for our amazing students, whose contributions will be watched and listened to by most powerful leaders across the world. Well done to you all.

Communication with the Academy

Almost all parents/carers have the MyEd app now, which is great. If you don't, please do so, following the steps below. We do need to keep in touch with you regularly – up to date contact details are vital.

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

Have a wonderful, restful week off. I'll be spending some time with my family and walking the Yorkshire Three Peaks for a very rainy, cold, but ultimately fulfilling and important walk for a charity close to a dear friend of mine's heart. I might be limping on the first day back, though!

Here's to next half term – the run up to Christmas – working hard and being nice, and building on this first class start to the year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Burton
Headteacher