

Friday, 3rd December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Well – what a week. It seems some time ago that we were all waiting on news of new restrictions and measures, and this week has brought back some memories of early in the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the changes in government guidance owing to the Omicron variant, the weather and the challenges of dark mornings and afternoons, behaviour and attendance remain very good at TCA, and students and staff are doing an excellent job as we work towards the final fortnight of term.

Attendance

As always, the first message is about one of our key priorities: attendance.

Our Academy target is 97%, and a HUGE well done to year 7 for achieving this. It is a truly fantastic achievement. This week has been Golden Week – where rewards have been given out on a daily basis to students, forms and an overall weekly winner of a £50 Amazon voucher for PERFECT attendance.

Year 7 = 97.1%

Year 8 = 94.9%

Year 9 = 95.9%

Year 10 = 94.9%

Year 11 = 95.2%

Face coverings

These should be worn by all students, staff and visitors in all communal areas at TCA. Students should bring a mask or face covering with them, but these are available should they forget. A lanyard will be given to any students who are exempt from wearing a face covering. If this applies to your child, please email with your child's name to Thornhill.COVID@sharemat.co.uk. If you are visiting us at the Academy, please wear a mask or face covering. Whilst we wish they weren't necessary, students have responded brilliantly to the new expectations and have adapted into their old routines quickly.

Twice weekly testing

Twice weekly at-home testing should still be going ahead, and students will be given kits for this as and when they are required. Should you require any additional kits, please do let us know and we will send them home with your child.



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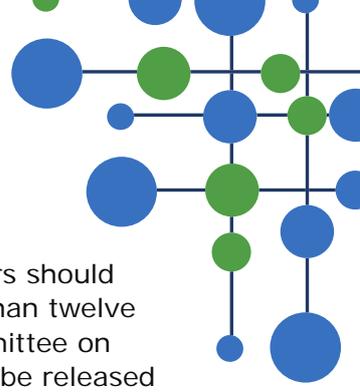
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Vaccinations for 12 – 15 year olds

This week, the government announced that young people aged 12 to 15 years should receive a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, no sooner than twelve weeks after the first dose. This is following advice from the JCVI (Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation). Details of the programme of vaccination will be released in due course, and at TCA we have no further information on this as yet. When we do, we will be in touch.

Testing after the Christmas break

All students who opt in to testing for COVID-19 will be tested once following their return from the Christmas break, in the first week back. We are reissuing consent letters for this, and wherever possible please help us to control the virus at TCA and keep our community safe by opting in to the testing programme.

Year 11 mock exams

A note to wish year 11 students good luck in their forthcoming mock exams over the next two weeks. I have seen just how hard you have been working and how much effort has gone into grabbing those grades you deserve. With every lesson that you 'be nice and work hard' in, with every revision session and with every P7 you attend, you are helping to make sure that your success is absolutely inevitable. That only comes with hard work, dedication and a positive mindset.

Year 10 SMSCD Day

A huge dose of praise to year 10, whose attitudes and engagement in their SMSCD (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development) Day were first class. Students learnt First-Aid, led by Mrs Greenwood and Miss Walsh, both PE teachers at the Academy, this proved hugely popular among students as they were able to learn vital life-saving skills such as the recovery position and CPR. A session on Cyber Crime was delivered by West Yorkshire Police. In the presentation students were informed of dangers to be found online and how to keep themselves safe from fraud by identifying potential scams and how to deal with them. In addition, students had sessions on contraception run by Mr Collins, gender equality by Sahera Patel, a TCA Governor, and religion and family life with Mrs Rudd. These days are hugely important in helping students to prepare for their lives in the big wide world when they leave us at the end of year 11.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Finally, if you happen to have any spare tinned goods or non-perishables and wish to donate them to families in need this Christmas, Mrs Sheard has arranged a 'reverse advent calendar', where students, staff and parents donate to Dewsbury Food Bank. This will run until Thursday, 16th December and then will be taken to the food bank. Should you have anything to donate, it would be gratefully received.

Enjoy the weekend, and thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Burton
Headteacher