

Friday, 10th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you'll be aware, every week brings with it a fresh set of challenges during this period. New variants, changes to face mask rules and protocols for education make things ever so slightly more complex. The changes to guidance around working from home and restrictions being reintroduced will undoubtedly have changed things for you. However, seeing our students and staff demonstrating resilience, grit and determination despite the world changing around them is inspiring...and despite this being week 13 of a 14 week term, the calm and purposeful atmosphere around TCA this week has been testament to everyone's outstanding efforts.

Attendance

A huge well done to Emily P in year 10 for being the overall winner of the £50 Amazon voucher in last week's Golden Week. There were also Amazon vouchers awarded to Casey-Lee W in year 7, Ahmad P in year 8, Phoebe M in year 9, Dainton B in year 10 and Rumaysah S in year 11, whose attendance was 100% and who were lucky enough to win the draw in their year groups!

Unfortunately, though, this week has been disappointing. Every year group is below our TCA target of 97% (though year 11 have done a good job in being highest for the week). Let's end the term with a really positive week next week: there are no excuses whatsoever for poor attendance. We can manage minor (non-COVID-19) illness in the building – please help your child to succeed by ensuring that they attend every single day.

Year 7 = 94.8%

Year 8 = 94%

Year 9 = 92.3%

Year 10 = 91.2%

Year 11 = 96.5%

Support over the Christmas holidays

Dewsbury South Community Support (DSCS) will be distributing Festive Dinner Food Parcels on Thursday 23rd December to families in the local area. They will contain all the food needed to cook a Christmas-type dinner.

To qualify for a parcel your child must be eligible for Free School Meals and you must live in Savile Town, Thornhill Lees or Thornhill. Apologies if you are one of our families who live outside this area but DSCS only provide support locally.

01924 324890

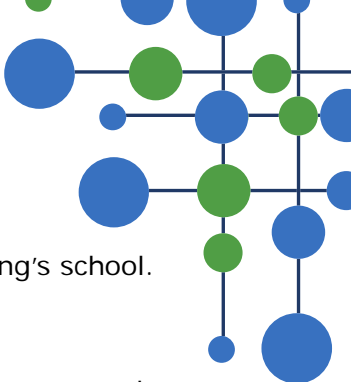
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Please do not request a parcel if you have already done so via a younger sibling's school. As numbers are limited, please only request a parcel if you really need one.

If you would like to receive one of these parcels please contact nicola.holmes@sharemat.co.uk by Wednesday 15th December, giving your full name and the name of your child/children that attend Thornhill Community Academy. By doing this you are giving consent for your contact details, including phone number and address, to be passed on to DSCS.

If you require support or guidance in relation to a safeguarding or wellbeing need over the Christmas period for yourself or your child then please refer to the Academy website: <https://www.thornhillcommunityacademy.co.uk/page/?title=Help+and+Support&pid=63> and <https://www.thornhillcommunityacademy.co.uk/page/?title=Further+Wellbeing+Information+and+External+Services&pid=75>

Twice weekly testing and testing upon return in January

Twice weekly at-home testing should still be going ahead throughout the Christmas holidays twice a week, 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. Please do send back the consent form which was sent last week – this will ensure that your child is tested on return to lessons in the first week back after the holidays. To be clear: there will be **no phased return and all students must return on Tuesday, 4th January at 8.40am.**

End of term arrangements

As is tradition, next Friday will be an opportunity for students to wear a winter jumper. Contributions to charity will not be mandatory, though voluntary contributions will be accepted. We will also be awarding prizes for any creative festive fancy dress or particularly jazzy jumpers! Students will be leaving the Academy following lunchtime at 2pm.

Thank you

A final note of thanks to you all for your incredible contribution to making Autumn term a hugely successful one. Our attendance is the best it has ever been overall, behaviour is exceptional and students' engagement in their classrooms is fantastic. This is because everyone has bought into our 'ABC', and is being nice and working hard to make sure that success is inevitable for every single student.

When it arrives, have a wonderfully well-deserved rest over the festive period. Whether you celebrate or not, I hope you are able to enjoy some time to spend relaxing with friends, family and loved ones. We will return in 2022 ready for our New Year's resolutions...but that's for next year!

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Burton
Headteacher