

13th December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

End of term newsletter

We are coming to the end of a long term which has seen attendance, behaviour and progress continue to improve. Students are focusing well on their learning and developing strong attitudes to learning.

We have seen excellent attendance at our Post-16 evening, our “Help your child study” evening for Year 10 students and at extra revision classes. Year 11 students have just completed their Pre-Public Exams and will be receiving their results in January. Teachers have been busy marking the papers and then setting personalised work for them to do over the Christmas holiday. There are many weeks still to go and students are getting help and resources to help them learn content, practise exam questions and generally prepare for the summer exams.

The whole school is developing a “Growth Mindset” approach. This means we are trying to grow our students’ resilience as learners, a never give up attitude and an understanding that doing well means hard work, effort and practice.

We held a very successful Super Learning Day recently. Students met people with different careers and thought about their own dreams and ambitions, finding out the steps which will help them achieve these dreams. They learned about the fantastic opportunities for apprenticeships in a wide range of areas and learned about how to manage their finances. There were opportunities to be creative and develop their team working and communication skills, all great learning which will help them prepare for successful futures. We are lucky to live in Manchester, a city which has a growing economy and all sorts of career opportunities for young people with the right qualifications, skills and who are ready to keep learning.

We are delighted to have achieved the bronze Award for UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools programme. Students have done research and presented assemblies around important issues connected with this. We also achieved a Gold Award from the School Games organisers for the quality of our work in PE.

I am delighted to report TEMA students’ success in the Bebras Computing Challenge, which introduces computational thinking to students. It is organised in over 40 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. All of our KS3 students were entered and several TEMA students achieved a top 10% Bebras score and have now been invited to compete in the TCS Oxford University Computing Challenge in March.

I was so pleased our male staff made a fantastic video to communicate to our young men the importance of talking about feelings on our Men’s Health Awareness Day. Students wrote inspiring and positive messages promoting kindness and support for each other around external walls. There were some really good discussions between students in response.

We have developed the school website and our VLE (Virtual learning Environment) so parents and students can find out important information quickly and students can keep learning any time anywhere. There is an exciting new area on the parents' section of the website which focuses on reading; as you know, reading is a crucial skill across all subjects and we are keen to focus on supporting parents and carers in developing this life-skill with your children. The website pages have recommended reading lists and suggested strategies for you to use to help to support your child with their reading at home. <http://www.theeastmanchesteracademy.co.uk/parents/reading>

The Performing Arts Team have presented Mary Poppins this week and local primary schools have attended a matinee to watch the performance, which was excellent. There are lots of other activities for your child to take part in such as music, singing, sport, debating, film club and leadership opportunities.

Christmas is often a time of year when students receive new phones. Please take the opportunity over the festive period to speak to your child about their use of their phone; what apps they like to use and how they protect themselves online. A great place to look for information is <https://www.getsafeonline.org/> which has lots of advice on a range of topics. You can also follow <https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety> on Twitter, who release new information every week about games and online trends.

As part of our work with Manchester's Digital Skills network, we have been offered the chance to host a workshop for parents who want help getting started online. We are looking at running a day in January, helping people on a one-to-one basis (or one-to-two if you want to bring a friend) getting set up with email, applying for and managing Universal Credit, housing benefit or just learning some new skills. If you are interested, please telephone the Headteacher's PA (Ms Hunt) on the school number to register an interest. We will be in contact in the New Year to arrange a specific date and time.

Friday 21st December is the last day of term and we are running a condensed day so school will finish at 1:00pm. The last day is a non-uniform day and students can choose to come into school in non-uniform with a contribution of 50p for the Mission Christmas charity. Food will be served at break.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting our school and wish you and your family a happy and peaceful time over the holiday and all the best for 2019. We look forward to seeing our students back at 8.15am on Monday 7th January 2019 in full school uniform.

Yours sincerely



P Kane M.A.
Executive Head