

8 April 2022

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Dear Parent/Carer

Principal: Mrs Samantha Broome

End of term celebrations and key information for next term

As we reach the end of first term, I am delighted to be able to share with you some of this term's highlights and most recent positive recognition celebrations alongside some updates for our final term of the year. I want to begin my communication by thanking all parents and carers for their continued support despite the on-going difficulties presented by the pandemic. I hope you enjoy reading about this term's highlights as much as I have enjoyed seeing our pupils participate in them.

Celebrating our pupils

Above and Beyond recognition

This term our teachers have continued to send home thousands of positive MCAS 'above and beyond' messages to our pupils. We have also started to feature some of these messages in our weekly newsletter. I want to congratulate the pupils who have regularly received these messages from your teacher. We are really proud of you!

Ossy's observations – sharing the best in learning via our Student SharePoint platform

Academy leaders have continued to capture the fantastic work of our young people across the course of this term and share some examples of this via our Student SharePoint platform. These examples are shared weekly with all pupils as examples of fantastic learning and attitude to learning. Thank you to any pupils who have allowed us to share their work this term.

Pre Public Examinations for Year 11 and 13

This term our pupils/students in Year 11 and 13 have sat another full suite of pre public examinations to help them prepare for the real thing in summer. We have been really pleased by the progress students have made between these exams and their last assessment point. We will continue to work to support our students through a variety of interventions in the coming weeks, to give them the very best opportunities to succeed in the summer exams.

End of term positive recognition

During the final two weeks of this term, we have been able to celebrate our pupils through our French themed recognition event. Eligible pupils have been invited to enjoy a crepe from 'Madame Crepe' who has visited the academy on Wednesday and Thursday this week. To make the experience even more authentic pupils were encouraged to order in French and were then given chance to enjoy some well earned down time with their friends. Well done to all pupils who were recognised in our event this week. I hope you enjoyed your treat!

Sporting and extra-curricular achievements

Extra-curricular

We have hosted a variety of extra-curricular clubs with 468 pupils regularly attending these clubs. The Science Technology Engineering and Maths club have carried out several exciting projects from creating catapults to rockets, and exploring how to create powered model cars. 68 pupils have signed on to the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and were also involved in a Police skills session with West Yorkshire Police. The focus of these sessions was Stop and Search and a Q&A session regarding the Police force. Our Ossett Master Chefs made their own stock out of chicken bones, and made a Risotto using the stock, chicken thighs for a Moroccan style dish, and Indian style Tandoori Chicken using the drumsticks, served with homemade Naan breads. Pupils continue to find tune their mathematics skills competing in weekly challenges and compete to be top of the TT rock stars leadership board. We have also celebrated a successful term of sporting prowess. The Year 7 netball team finished 3rd, girls in Year 7 and 8 football won their most recent tournament, Year 8 and 9 boys football pupils have recently won the Wakefield schools league and the Year 7,8 and 11 boys football team reached the Wakefield schools cup final.

Fundraising efforts

Our pupils and students (with the support of their parents and carers) have been able to support the academy in its fundraising efforts this term. As an academy we managed to raise almost £500 for Comic relief thanks to the selling of red noses and a variety of sporting activities pupils engaged in. Collectively our pupils and staff members cycled 333.3km (207 miles). Thank you to everyone who contributed to our fund-raising efforts. Your support and generosity are very much appreciated.

Our Music Showcase Event

On Thursday 7 April, we were delighted to be able to go ahead with our first Music Showcase since the Covid restrictions began. It was wonderful to be able to invite parents in to hear the fantastic talents of our young people showcased in our Kendall Hall setting. Thank you to all pupils involved in the event and for parents/carers who were able to attend. We hope you enjoyed the event as much as we did.

Easter College for Year 11 and 13

We are delighted to be able to offer continued support for our Year 11 and 13 students in preparation for their Summer examinations over the Easter break. All students should have received a letter inviting them into specific examination support sessions in the Academy. A timetable of what the Academy has on offer for pupils will also be shared on our pupil SharePoint platform. Attendance at these sessions is closely monitored and we will issue daily reminders for attendance as well as confirming with parents/carers if their child has been in attendance. We hope that our Easter College helps our students' final stages of preparation.

Updates for the Summer term

Easter closure

The academy will be maintaining its normal curriculum for pupils until the end of the day today **Friday 8 April 2022**. During the Easter break the academy will be open to students in Year 11 and 13 as they attend our Easter College to support their examination preparations. The academy will then reopen to pupils in all year groups for the Summer Term on Monday 25 April 2022.

Upcoming dates for your diary

- Virtual Year 8 Parents Evening – Wednesday 4 May 2022
- Post 16 HE Unique Fair – Thursday 5 May 2022
- Year 13 Stand Down – Thursday 12 May 2022
- Parents Forum – Tuesday 17 May 2022
- Virtual Year 10 Parents Evening – Thursday 26 May 2022
- Y6 into Y7 Supporting Success – Tuesday 7 June 2022
- Parent Forum – Thursday 16 June 2022
- Y13 Prom – Friday 24 June 2022
- Y6 Parent Welcome – Thursday 30 June 2022
- Year 11 Stand Down and Prom – Monday 11 July 2022
- Virtual Year 7 Parents Evening – Thursday 14 July 2022
- End of term – Friday 22 July 2022

Academy Uniform

As we return to the academy following the Easter break colleagues will continue to make daily checks on pupils' uniform. It is important that our pupils return to the academy in the correct uniform (including appropriate footwear). It is my full expectation that all pupils attend wearing the correct uniform.

Further to this, I would also like to stress to pupils and parents/carers that pupils must not return to the academy wearing jewellery or having had any piercings that are not able to be removed. Additionally, the wearing of false nails or false eyelashes, fake tan and excessive make up is also not allowed. Where pupils are found to be in breach of these standards appropriate sanctions will be put in place. I would kindly request that all parents/carers support the academy in ensuring our standards for success are adhered to. If you require any further details regarding this please refer to our website <https://ossett.accordmat.org/parents-carers/uniform/>

Chewing gum

This term we have seen an increase in pupils entering the academy with chewing gum. Please be advised the chewing gum is strictly forbidden as it can cause significant damage to the academy and is incredibly difficult to remove. On return following the holiday period, any pupils caught chewing gum will be subject to a Standards Detention.

Pupil Attendance

It is our expectation that all pupils and students will return to the academy following the Easter break, unless they are not well enough to do so or are subject to self-isolation due to coronavirus. Pupils who have symptoms of COVID-19 should follow the [UKHSA guidance](#) about when they should stay at home. Attending education is hugely important for children and young people's health and their future.

Where you need to report your child's absence, please use our dedicated attendance phone line 01924 232832. Remember to include your child's full name on the message and the reason for the absence.

Support for Families over the holiday period

As the majority of staff, pupils, parents and carers look forward to the Easter break, I understand that the holiday period can present a real challenge for some of our pupils and their families. As

such please find attached a list of useful telephone numbers, websites and points of contact should you require them over the holiday period. I hope these services are able to provide you with the support you may need, should you wish to make contact with them.

All that remains for me to say is on behalf of the academy, I wish all our pupils and their families a safe and enjoyable break. I very much look forward to welcoming all our young people back to the academy for the Summer Term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S Broome". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Mrs S Broome
Principal

Useful Numbers for Families over the Easter break

Child line

Support and advice for children online and over the phone. 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk.

Citizen's Advice

An independent, local charity which offers free, confidential and impartial advice to the citizens of the Wakefield District for a wide range of issues e.g. housing, debt, family, employment... For telephone advice or for an appointment please call the advice line 03444 111 444 – Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm.

Kooth

Free, safe and anonymous online mental health support for young people <https://kooth.com/>.

Inspiring Futures (Young Persons, Families and Carers Service)

A substance and alcohol misuse service for young people, providing free and confidential service to young people, families, friends and significant others that are residents in the Wakefield District. Tel: 0300 123 1912

<https://www.turning-point.co.uk/services/wakefield#about>

Star Bereavement & Support Service

Emotional and practical support to children and young people aged 4 – 18 who live in the Wakefield District and have suffered bereavement or significant loss. 01924 787384.

<https://starbereavement.org.uk/support/>

The resource food bank (Christ Church Ossett)

This operates on a referral basis from Job Centres, Social Services, Local Authority Crisis Units, Schools and Children's Centres, Homeless Shelters and Benefit Centres, Refuges and Vulnerable adult organisations. For further information contact 01924 263311 or christchurchsouthossett@gmail.com.

Wakefield District Domestic Abuse Service

Support is available for people who are experiencing abuse, and also for those who recognise that they are using abusive behaviours and want to make changes. Tel: 0800 915 1561 or <https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/health-care-and-advice/adults-and-older-people-services/domestic-abuse>

Worried About a Child?

If you have concerns about a child's safety or well-being you should contact Social Care Direct free on 0345 8503 503. They will deal with your concerns and can offer advice and support on what to do.