

9 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: End of Spring half term updates and notices

It has been a very busy, but short Spring half term and we are delighted to inform you of all the updates from our events and activities our students have been participating in as well as an update for parents.

Events

This half term students in Year 9 have had to make their Guided Pathway Choices, it was pleasing to see the evening so well attended and thank you to parents for supporting us to ensure this process was thorough and the choices made were the right ones moving forward for your child.

We have also seen the 'Talent Foundry', a group of Year 10 pupils, who have started their first enterprise trip with the Talent Foundry at the Riverside stadium. The conduct of our students was praised by those at the event, and we look forward to seeing what comes from their project and future sessions!

Praise

We are extremely proud of our Millionaire readers. The students below have all read an immense amount of books and words.

Mayam M Y8	- 3,059,158
Ruby N Y7	- 2,825,780
Aleena H Y9	- 2,619,368
Areeb U Y8	- 1,436,945
Jemima B Y8	- 1,405,042
Edward H Y9	- 1,040,552

Poetry Competition " This is me"

We have been incredibly proud of our budding authors in the Academy, with two students, Eni Odewole and Inaaya Nazir (both Y7) have had their poetry published! We have copies of the books in the library, should other students want to read their work!

Five of our talented Y7 students have been selected to have their stories published in A Young Writers' Anthology. The competition was again run through the library by Mrs Harding with the help of Mrs Donovan-Loomes who helped to promote the competition in English lessons. It was my pleasure to meet them this week and hear about their stories. I can't wait to be able to share more information when their work is published. We are very proud of our students: Sesoo Nkere; Jay Greig; Zeyna Burgaz; Godsgift Usiohen and Robert Snowden.

Expectations Reminder:

Aerosols/Sprays:

We have had a couple of incidents recently in which students have sprayed aerosols in the Academy, which has resulted in asthma attacks of others. Please can I remind everybody that due to the fact some of our students and staff will be negatively impacted by aerosols or sprays in the Academy, aerosols and sprays are not allowed in the Academy.

Equipment:

We kindly request that parents support our young people to be fully equipped for school with at least a pen, pencil, ruler and planner. Should students need to purchase a new planner, these can be purchased from Student Reception.

Uniform:

It is important that parents support us in maintaining the high standards of uniform that we have seen this term. Please can we kindly request that parents support with ensuring that all false eyelashes, nails and jewellery are removed before returning to school following the break.

Should you need to renew any items of uniform, please see our website for further details. However, shoes, skirts, trousers and shirts can all be purchased without branding. Should you need ties, PE kit or blazers, these need to be ordered via Trutex.

Energy Drinks:

Some students are bringing energy drinks into the Academy, and this is not allowed. Following the half term break any such drinks will be confiscated, so please support us in ensuring that your child only brings water into the Academy.

Water and Reusable Bottles:

If students have reusable bottles we have stations available throughout the day for students to fill up their water, and we do hold some reusable bottles in school that we can issue, should your child not have a bottle and require one. In the first instance, please liaise with your child's learning manager.

Snacks/Crisps:

Some students have more recently been arriving at school with large bags of crisps. Whilst a single packet of crisps, as part of a balanced packed lunch, is acceptable, any student who is seen with large bags of crisps or sweets will be asked to hand them over to staff.

Vaping:

We have previously shared a copy of a letter from the Mayor and Local Police, regarding concerns about vaping in the town and the fact that some vapes contain other substances. I have included the letter below:

📎 **2023.10.27 Vaping THC and Spice letter to parents.pdf**

In the letter are QR codes, which I have put below, with some key links to support parents if this is an issue that you are worried about or concerned about.

South Tees Stop Smoking and Stop Vaping Service



Recovery Solutions for alcohol and substance support



Middlesbrough 0-19 Health Service



To be clear, we are and always have been a vape free school and students found vaping will be dealt with in line with our behaviour policy.

Upcoming Events:

Year 11 Mock Exams

When we return to school, our Year 11 students will be undertaking their final two weeks of Mock Examinations. Attendance at all examinations is of crucial importance to ensure effective preparation for the summer exams.

Please see the link below for a website where you can find online masterclasses that have been recorded and provided for students to access at any time over the break.

<https://www.outwood.com/revision-masterclasses>

We also would like to remind parents about the holiday sessions that are being run in the Academy throughout the week, in addition, due to student requests, we will be staffing an independent study room. Simply, this is a room in which students can come into school to complete independent work, in a calm and quiet environment - away from the distractions of phones and other technology! This will be running 10am-2pm, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week.

Year 10 Spring Assessments:

Our Year 10 students are also having their Spring Assessments, in the main hall, to start to prepare them for the feel of examinations. These will take place in the third week back to school after the break (week beginning: 4th March 24). Assessments will be in Maths, English and Science only and we ask parents to support in ensuring that Year 10 students are accessing the materials that have been issued by these departments.

Key Dates for the diary:

WC 19th - 1st March - Year 11 Mock Exams [Y10 Spring mock timetable 2024](#)

WC 4th March - Year 10 Spring Assessments

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day

Wednesday 20th March - Iftar Celebration Evening

Friday 22nd March - Academy closes for Easter break

I wish you and your family a restful half term break and look forward to seeing our students return to the Academy on Monday 19th February.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GSKM', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Graham Skidmore
Principal