

WH/RNM

14th December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE END OF TERM

The academy closes on Friday 21st December. The buses will arrive at 12.30. Young people entitled to a free school meal will be able to get one at break.

We will on this day allow students to wear their Christmas jumpers if they so wish in return for a £1 donation for Save the Children, which will be collected in tutor time. There are no other changes to our other uniform expectations; the jumper will be the only variation. This is not a compulsory event, please do not feel you have to buy a jumper especially for this day.

SCHOOL MEALS NEXT WEEK

I very much commend the work of Mrs Brown and her team in the provision of our meals. They maintain a consistently high standard and present very good value for money. On both Wednesday and Thursday next week they will be going the extra mile for us by preparing a full Christmas menu. Tuesday's menu will be fish and chips.

ELLIOTT HUDSON COLLEGE AT BOSTON SPA

We are excited with the progress we are making on bringing Elliott Hudson College to Boston Spa. The support we have received from TGAT has been exceptional. The new college will represent a formidable partnership that will transform post 16 provision in our locality, presenting a great opportunity for Year 11s right across the area.

The new prospectus is now published and, with it, a new curriculum offer including new additions such as Sociology, Law, Textiles and Medical Science.

The plans for the £1,000,000 TGAT investment in the buildings are well advanced with the remodelling taking place in two stages ready for September 2019. This will include a transformation of learning spaces, library facilities and (perhaps most significantly) ICT provision. I shared the first draft of the plans in the [blog](#). Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Brennan if you have any queries or if you wish to recommend Elliott Hudson College at Boston Spa to family or friends.

STAFF NEWS

We bid farewell to Miss Tapp and Mr Lee from Science, who both take up posts in Bradford academies. Miss Hew starts her maternity leave with every best wish from us all.

Page 1 of 3



We are delighted to be welcoming Mrs Page (from Roundhay School) and Mrs Green (from Farnley Academy) to replace them, as well as Mr Porter (from Elliott Hudson College) to lead on post 16 Physics. We are very pleased to be welcoming Mrs Banks back to our staff, who last worked at Boston Spa some 18 years ago. She brings great experience and expertise, having worked both as an Advanced Skills Teacher in North Yorkshire, and as a local authority advisor for English for the city of York. We have recruited well for these changes and are excited about welcoming the new colleagues, as well as welcoming back Miss Gully and Mrs Porteus-Ford from maternity leave.

TGAT SCHOOL CENTRED TEACHER TRAINING

Becoming part of TGAT has enabled us to become part of the School Centred Teacher Training (SCITT), with nearly 200 graduates training to be teachers. It is the only teacher training organisation in the area that is graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in all areas. This week we have been able to make brilliant new staff appointments for September 2019 (all current SCITT trainees) in English, Maths, Science, Art, History, Geography and Drama; we are in genuinely exciting times!

The SCITT is recruiting trainees looking for a September 2019 start, so if there are graduate members of your family thinking about teaching in either primary or secondary there are Open Days on 23rd January, 27th February and 20th March 2019. Further details are available on the [SCITT](#) website. If you want to talk to someone about this opportunity please telephone Reception and Miss Miller will be pleased to advise.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We would never want a family to miss out on their entitlements and if you are the parent, foster parent, network family carer or guardian of children at school, and you are on a low income, you could be entitled to free school meals. Please note that young people who are still at school but receive income support in their own right can also receive free school meals.

If you think you might be entitled to this support you can refer to the information on the [Leeds City Council](#) website or ring Mrs Anderson via Reception and she will assist you.

ROWING

We have very much enjoyed the introduction of rowing into the curriculum, as a part of the partnership between TGAT and RowUK. For our students this is a new sport, and we have been so impressed by their performances which I have been sharing in the blog. If you think this might be the sport for your son or daughter we are holding a 'Talent ID' event here on Thursday 10th January; please contact Mr Potter if you would like further information.

GORSE GETS HEALTHY

Gorse Gets Healthy is an important TGAT-wide initiative that we are embracing to develop positive health and lifestyle choices with students by increasing physical activity, improving mental health and promoting well-being.

In January 2019 we will launch this with Years 7 and 8. The students will undertake a fitness test with their PE teacher and data from this will be shared with home. During the following two terms students will have focused fitness sessions in PE lessons and will be expected to attend at least one extra-curricular activity per week, with the expectation that they demonstrate quantifiable improvements in fitness. Each extracurricular activity attended will accrue one Gorse Gets Healthy stamp in the planner. In the final weeks of the summer term students will be re-tested and again test results will be shared. If a student does not have a Gorse Gets Healthy stamp there will be a comment in the planner during PD Hour.

EXTREME WEATHER

As the colder weather approaches I thought a reminder about our practice for school closures might be helpful.

It is always our default position to keep the academy open, although on occasions of extreme weather that would present a risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of our community we have, on rare occasions, closed for a day. We try to make these decisions before any child has left home, and usually by 7.15am. We would communicate notice of any closure via our [phone app](#), by text message, on our website and on Twitter. In the absence of any of these notifications you should assume the academy is open.

We also notify Leeds City Council who publish a list of closed schools, which is then read out on local radio. We have not always found this to be reliable, so please only rely upon messages directly sent out from the academy.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We have vacancies for exam invigilators who work during exam periods ensuring the guidelines and regulations for the integrity and security of the examinations are maintained. The salary is £9.78 per hour with the number of hours and weeks when work is available varying according to the exam timetable. We welcome the opportunity to recruit from the academy community and there is more information on the TGAT [vacancies](#) webpage. If you have any additional questions please telephone our Examinations Officer, Mr Martin.

We are committed to the welfare of children and applicants will be subject to full employment checks, including an enhanced DBS disclosure.

BUS TRANSPORT

We appreciate that the service at the start of term has not met everybody's expectations as regards punctuality both in the morning and in the afternoon. I know it will not feel like it for one or two services, but the bus company have worked hard on this and the service has improved. Please be assured this remains a real focus of our dialogue with the bus company; if you have matters of concern to raise please contact Mr Marshall, via Reception.

SPRING TERM

We re-open for the spring term on Monday 7th January 2019 at 8.45am.

Thank you for your partnership with us over this term; we know that our students thrive when home and school work together and we do not take your support for granted.

My hope is that this Christmas you and your family find both peace and joy.

Yours sincerely



CHRISTOPHER WALSH
Principal