

May 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Year 10 Information – Summer Term 2018**

As we approach the end of the academic year there are several important pieces of information we would like to share with families. There are many events and learning experiences that may involve your child over the coming weeks and working together we can plan to make sure all relevant information is shared effectively.

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 Manchester Arena Attack - Remembrance Arrangements**

As part of the remembrance events for the attack at the Manchester Arena last year we will be observing a one minute silence at 2.00pm, this is planned to coincide with the silence that will be observed during the official remembrance service at Manchester Cathedral that day.

Our School Council have decided to make pink ribbons for the day and these can be collected from Student Reception on arrival to school on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018. There is no cost for these and students can choose to wear these for the day, if they wish.

We have several students at our academy who were at the arena on the day of the attack and these students have been allocated a person in school to go to should they feel anxious on the day or in the days leading up to this date. Parents/Carers of students in Year 7 who were not with us last May but were at the event or were affected by the incident should contact school to let us know, so we can make the appropriate arrangements for your child.

We are very pleased to inform you that our Academy Choir, directed by Miss Odgen, has been selected to be part of the mass choir event being held in Manchester on the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018.

#### **Mock Examinations:**

As part of our assessment calendar for next term all Year 10 students will be conducting end of year 10 mock exams in all of their timetabled subjects except Core PE. The mock exams are scheduled from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018 until Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

With GCSE courses now assessed through examinations at the end of Year 11, and the reduction of the coursework element, it is important that our students are able to complete tests to the best standard they possibly can. The purpose of these assessments is to build up our students' revision skills, techniques and resilience to be able to cope with the increasing pressures of formal examinations. It will also help us to identify any students who we feel will need additional support with examinations and will allow us to put interventions in place for them.

Students in Year 10 will sit their exams in the sports hall (except for their practical exams in Art and Food Technology) in preparation for next year, establishing routines and developing ways to cope with the possible stress and strains of examinations.

In order to prepare students for these exams, Mrs Adrio -Key Stage Four Lead, will be holding a number of full year group assemblies to inform students about the exam process, provide some advice on how to revise and some very useful “Top Tips”.

As part of lessons during the last week of this half term, your child will be given a “Preparing for my Exams” information sheet, where details from each subject can be recorded and kept as a guide and this can also be used as a revision list. Students will be asked to keep this information in their planners. Students will discuss the exam with their subject teacher who will also go over the type of questions to expect on the exam paper. We would encourage you to ask your child about the information that they have gathered and this will then promote a positive and constructive dialogue about learning at home.

Results will be shared with students during lesson times before the end of the summer term and students will be encouraged to share this information at home. Obviously follow up work and green pen tasks will build on their skills and knowledge where needed. If we have any concerns about the examinations and your child we will contact you to arrange a meeting to discuss this further.

### **Ramadan and school Exams:**

Ramadan is an important time for many of our students and their families Our school will support students who are fasting in any way we can -

- Special provision at lunchtimes is made for students who are fasting.
- We anticipate that fasting may make some students weak or tired, and we adapt the curriculum as appropriate.
- Our Academy has informed governors, staff and our wider school community of the implications of fasting for students.
- Please can we ask that you complete the form attached to this letter to inform our school that your child is fasting, so that the school doesn't make any assumptions about who may be / may not be observing the fast. Please indicate on the form if you would like your child to have a choice to go to a quiet room during breaktime or lunchtime.
- We have arrangements in place to provide support and/or additional supervision for students withdrawn from activities, such as PE.
- We are fully supportive of any student who needs to break their fast and will exercise our normal duty of care towards them.

**Some ideas to support students, especially those who have exams, who are fasting during Ramadan may include:**

- Try getting a couple of hours of sleep after returning from school
- Fit in your revision after your rest and prayers
- Ensure alarm is set early and arrive to the academy on time
- Arrive early for exams and related support sessions
- Ensure high energy foods are eaten – aim to eat some slow release carbohydrate, if possible, to have energy throughout the next day and avoid too many fried, fatty and salty foods during Ramadan such as samosas, pakoras, biryanis.
- Raise awareness of the importance of hydration to maintain peak performance. When able, carry a water bottle and refresh it frequently.
- Consume fruits with high water content.

**College Taster Day Sessions:**

During the final half term, our local college providers Rochdale Sixth Form College and Hopwood Hall College, are offering taster places for students to visit and experience “college life”. Year 10 students have been looking at the difference between the two colleges and have selected a visit that they would like to attend.

The Rochdale Sixth Form College trip takes place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and the Hopwood Hall College trip takes place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Your child will be bringing home a letter at the beginning of the next half term with further information for these taster sessions.

**Welcome to Year 11 Evening:**

In preparation for the next academic year, we would like to invite all parents/carers of our Year 10 students to attend a “Welcome to Year 11 Evening” on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018. During the evening parents/carers will gain information about the pressures and strains students may face in Year 11 (and how to help them cope), college application information, specific subject information and advice as well as an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have. We hope to see as many families as possible on the evening.

**Swimming Pool Update:**

From September 2018 our newly refurbished swimming pool will be open and we are delighted that students will once again be timetabled to take part in swimming lessons as part of the PE Curriculum. The School Council members have been part of the design team for the pool refurbishment and have helped choose the colour scheme in parts of the building.

We would like to make you aware that for September you will need to purchase additional items as part of your child’s PE kit, further information will be shared towards the end of term.

**Dates for your diary:**

Musical Evening	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2018
Sports Awards evening	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Year 9 and 10 Awards evening	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Sports Day - "It's a Knockout" (Inflatable assault course)	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
School closes for Summer	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2018

If you require further information regarding a particular subject or any information contained in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact your child's subject teacher or your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Yours faithfully

Mrs E Adrio  
KS4 Co-Ordinator

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**Please return to Mrs Edwards:**

**STUDENT FASTING SLIP**

Please be informed that my child.....Form.....  
will be fasting during Ramadan 2018.

I would like my child to access the quiet room during break time and lunchtime



Signed.....  
Parent/Carer

Date:.....

