

24th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Autumn Term Half Term 1 Round Up

It is hard to believe that the first half term is behind us and that the academy has completed eight weeks since the end of the start of term. It has been a busy eight weeks, which is always the case in the academy. IT has been really pleasing to see the positive attitudes from our students, especially to their work and learning, and visitors to the academy have commented on how purposeful lessons feel and how engaged students are in their learning. These are really good foundations from which to build the rest of the year upon. I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight a few key bits of information as we head to the half term break.

Key Dates

Tuesday 4 th November:	Start of Autumn Term, Half Term 2
Thursday 6 th November:	Curriculum Day
Thursday 13 th November:	Welcome to Year 10 Evening
Monday 17 th November:	Year 11 Mock Exams Start
Thursday 11 th December:	Year 11 Parent's Evening
Wednesday 17 th December:	TNHA Christmas Panto
Friday 19 th December:	End of Autumn 2 (Academy Closes for Christmas Holiday)

(Monday 3rd November is an ATT Staff so academy is closed to students)

More information about these events and other will be published closer to the time. The second part of the term is also a busy one for lots of our older students who will have a number of internal assessments for their courses and coursework deadlines, which will be communicate to them.

Parental Contact and Communication

We are appreciative of all the information that is shared with the academy. We would ask that if you need to get a message to your child during the academy day that you contact the academy reception team, and they can pass messages onto students. Equally, if you have other information to share or questions about something in the academy then the key point of contact is your child's form tutor. They will have already emailed you at some point during the first half term and can either deal with queries or pass information onto relevant staff in the first instance. However, we would urge you to be patient in waiting for responses. Most tutors will have teaching commitments and may not be able to reply immediately. We do ask colleagues to acknowledge any incoming communications within 48 hours.

We would also urge you to download the MCAS (My Child at School App) if you have not done so already. We also share key communications through this app, but you are also able to get immediate updates about your child's attendance and other key information to support them in the academy.

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Attendance Update from Mrs Atkins (Assistant Principal)

If your child is absent from the academy for unavoidable reasons, please use 01760 726169 or email tnh-attendance@attrust.org.uk to report their absence, leaving their name, tutor group and the reason they are absent. Please contact the academy by 8.30am.

If your child is absent from school for more than one day, please keep us informed each day. If your child is absent and we have not been informed, we will record the absence as unauthorised. Continued unauthorised absence will trigger a home visit by TNHA staff and we may involve the Safer Schools Police Officer if we have ongoing concerns.

SEND Updates from Mrs Smith (Assistant Principal/SENDCO)

The Year 7 students have settled in amazingly well - we are very proud of how smart looking, friendly and settled they are. Please ensure that you are supporting your child with or without need when preparing them for their school day.

Take - A- Break Cards: We have reviewed our 'Take A Break' cards and analysed data of when and who used them frequently. As these are short term interventions (6 weeks) if your child did not use these cards regularly last year, they have not received one this academic year. We are more than happy to monitor the situation and if you feel your child would benefit from these in discussion with their teachers, please do email into the academy and we can discuss these.

Reasonable Adjustments: As we strive to improve our communications with parents, some of you may have noticed on BROMCOM/MCAS a new addition to our behaviour portal. There is a new input titled; 'Reasonable adjustment behaviour'. We have added this as we recognise that for some students a reasonable adjustment needs to be made to support them before or during our consequence system. This input enables you as the parent to see what has been offered and trialled with your child if they have a SEND plan or need. Professional judgement will be made on how this is utilised, but we felt it was an important step in keeping you informed of any reasonable adjustments in class that your child has been offered during a lesson to support their behaviours.

APDR (Assess, Plan, Do, Review): During the first half term you should have received a call from a member of staff if your child (Years 8-11) is on the SEND register. As we strive to better create targets, as well as improving student and parent voice we have devised a new system for setting and monitoring targets of our SEND students. This happens on an 'Asses, Plan, Do, Review cycle'. This is an opportunity for you to discuss targets set with a member of staff throughout the academic year.

Year 7 students on the SEND register will also follow this plan, however we will be allowing them to settle and get to know them for a little longer before target setting begins.

Community Feedback

We are fortunate that the academy has many brilliant young students who are fantastic ambassadors for the academy. However, as the only secondary school in Swaffham, the behaviour of our students, especially in town and in surrounding villages will sometimes be brought to our attention, especially when they are wearing academy uniform. We have recently been contacted by the police about students riding their bikes on pavements around the town. We have been asked to remind parents/students that they should not be cycling on pavements unless they are cycle paths.

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We would also like to remind our students that when riding their bikes to be mindful of other road users, to wear a cycle helmet and especially as the days shorten as we head into winter for their bikes to have lights and for them to wear some form of highly visible clothing when using their bikes.

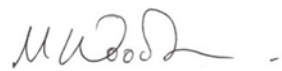
New Staff to the Academy

I often write at the end of terms about staff who are moving on to other endeavours, at the start of the academic year it is nice to welcome new staff to the academy. Miss Amey (Science), Miss Rodrigues (Geography) and Miss Schrier (History) all joined the academy team at the start of the term and have already made a positive impact with their classes. We also are currently recruiting for some roles in the academy. We are keen to add to our Teaching Assistant team and have an advert out for a new teaching assistant. We are also seeking to appoint an Exams Officer and HR Administrator. If you or anyone you know if our local academy would be interested in these roles more information can be found here: <https://tnha.attrust.org.uk/vacancies/>

It has been an incredibly busy term but as already mentioned it has been great to see how our students have approached not only their learning but the other opportunities that have been on offer to them. We are also grateful for your support in helping to reinforce expectations and standards, especially around uniform. We would encourage you to look at our uniform information on our website if you are buying any new uniform over the half term break, so it matches our expectations. Equally though, thank you for your support over the past eight weeks, our students as good as they are, will need support and help as they navigate the various pressures and challenges that they face at the academy.

Whilst the weather has become incredibly autumnal over the last few weeks as we head towards the winter months, I hope you and your families have an opportunity to have a lovely half term break. I look forward to seeing our students return after the holiday on Tuesday 4th November, as positively as they started the year.

Best wishes.



Mr Woodhouse
Principal