



TNH-office@attrust.org.uk



01760 721480



tnha.attrust.org.uk



Brandon Road, Swaffham, PE37 7DZ



19th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: End of Autumn Term 2025

I hope that this letter finds you all well and that you are looking forward to the upcoming festive period. You will have received a copy of our newsletter which highlights lots of the good things that have been happening in the academy, but I wanted to write and update you on a few things that have happened in the academy this past term as well share some information for the new year.

Key Dates and Holiday Contact

The academy will close at 3.10 pm today. Should you need to contact the academy over the Christmas break is to email via the academy main office email which is tnh-office@attrust.org.uk. Please be patient in waiting for a response should you email in as whilst the email will be monitored it may be less frequently than usual. This will also be the case for any direct staff email contacts that you may use.

The academy will re-open to all students and staff in Monday 5th January 2026. I am aware that some of the other local schools have a staff training day on the first Monday back, we do not. We are back into lessons on Monday 5th. As we have finished this term on a Week A, the first week back after the break will be a Week B. This should be reflected on the MCAS app.

Staff Updates

As is the cycle of change in schools each term brings about certain staff changes. Many of you will be aware that Mrs Brown (Music Teacher) left us at half term to start her maternity leave. Similarly, Miss Baker (Science Teacher) will be commencing her maternity leave in after the Christmas break. Mr Sneesby our Attendance Officer is also leaving us this term for pastures new.

With staff leaving it offers opportunities to bring new staff in. One colleague who started a few weeks ago and some of you will have met already is our new Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Ms Willcox. Ms Willcox has a wide-ranging experience in the safeguarding sector, having worked for the police and independent school's inspectorate amongst other organisations.

I will further update you on other staffing changes in the New Year.

Attendance Matters at The Nicholas Hamond Academy

Over the past two weeks, we have noticed a decline in student attendance. We understand that winter brings its fair share of sickness bugs and viruses, and this year has been no exception—both locally in Swaffham and nationally. While we appreciate that students may need time away from school to recover, we are eager to welcome them back as soon as they are well enough.

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At The Nicholas Hamond Academy, we set a minimum attendance target of **95%** for all students. This is vital to ensure they receive a full and well-rounded education, benefit from social interactions with their peers, and take advantage of the positive connections with external providers and visitors who regularly enrich our school community.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high attendance and ensuring every student thrives. We hope that the Christmas break gives students the opportunity to fully recover and return refreshed and ready to go in the new year.

Thank you for your continued support this year. It has been a varied and busy one, but at the heart of what we have tried to do is provide lots of opportunities for our students. Looking back on all the things that have happened I think we have gone some way to doing this and we are planning on building on this in 2026.

I wish you and your families a restful and Happy Christmas and I hope you have a brilliant New Year filled with hope and positivity for 2026.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mr Woodhouse'.

Mr Woodhouse
Principal