

## Trentham Academy

Allerton Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire ST4 8PQ

T 01782 883200 F 01782 234537

E [trentham@trenthamacademy.co.uk](mailto:trentham@trenthamacademy.co.uk)

[www.trenthamacademy.co.uk](http://www.trenthamacademy.co.uk)

**Headteacher:** Mr M Whittingham  
BSc PGCE AST PGC MEd NASENCO NPQH



22 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It has once again been an extremely challenging year for our whole community but, in the face of adversity, an extremely successful one. Our students and staff never cease to amaze me with their resilience, energy and commitment which has brought about a huge number of very positive outcomes. We have dealt with daily guidance change from the DfE, often changing at the last minute, to keep our school open and as safe as possible from Covid 19. We have had some difficult decisions to make, closing bubbles and asking students and staff to self-isolate. In January we were placed in lockdown and at a moment's notice moved back to our remote digital blended curriculum to support our students. Hopefully we will not have to do this again as we plan to return to a greater level of school normality next year.

### Summary of Events and Achievements of 2020-2021

During the lockdown staff worked hard on producing virtual materials, including SPARK resources for some INSET days, to support students with work. The students responded positively and were able to complete their studies as both staff and students adapted again to the technology that enabled a continued education. During this time, we held a webinar for Year 11 with our local MP, and the Academy, working with David Hyner, launched well-being sessions for over 20,000 students City wide and further afield. Staff created video blogs and messages, which have had over 40,000 hits, to ensure students could see their teachers and we were able to stay in touch and communicate next steps and support throughout the year.

Technology has also allowed us to recreate Open Evenings and Induction Evenings as virtual events and whilst this could never be the same as visiting the Academy, we were able to show new and prospective parents many aspects of what we do. We held Parents' Evenings using the video conferencing system for all year groups and we made over 8000 phone calls to parents and made 3000 home visits. During lockdown, we delivered food or vouchers to support some of our parents and delivered sweets to all our students as a treat.



We have been able to support a variety of charities this year: in September we raised awareness of Young Minds and Children's mental health and support raising over £600 for Hello Yellow and in October we wore red for 'Show Racism the Red card' raising a further £500. The Academy community has also raised money to support Ashton in Year 7 to show their support for him and we look forward to seeing him soon.

In a variety of subjects and a range of fields, students have had lots of success:

- A Year 7 student has become City Champion in her field in the City Music competition – a superb achievement, well done.
- 8 students from Years 8-10 entered the 3 Counties Art Festival and all received commendations for their work from the organisers and a £20 voucher from our CEO, Mr Ward in July.
- Maisie in Year 9 was runner up in The City Young Journalist of the year this year, following in the footsteps of Max who won last year.
- Charlotte, another Year 9 student, had her Limerick published in the Big Read.
- Holly, in Year 8, won the City-wide inaugural Gareth Jones Award for Excellence in English, for her Poem about Stoke-on-Trent's pottery industry.
- Year 11 English students competed in the Diamond GCSE pod City wide competition and were victorious by a long distance.
- Students in Year 10 and 11 have also been involved in a variety of workshops on Saturdays with the English and Maths Excellence Partnerships and it's a huge thank you to the staff giving up their time to support our students at weekend.
- During lockdown we created 20 challenges for students to complete; Gemma in Year 9 completed all of them and won the overall certificate which was presented to her at her home. She also received a letter from the Houses of Parliament.
- 56 students took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Awards, which was fantastic to see. They thoroughly enjoyed it, developing a large number of skills along the way, even when it poured down with rain on some expeditions, particularly in October!
- All Year 7 students wrote to their primary school informing them of their first few weeks at Trentham; these were very heartening to read. We posted them all and had some lovely feedback from the schools.

Sport this year has certainly been curtailed due to the pandemic but a student in Year 7 has become the British swimming champion – a fantastic achievement - and a former student who left last year has won the World Indoor Rowing Championships. We look forward to the return of competitive sport in the Autumn term.

Our swimming pool is now open again and a company called Walk on Water (WOW) is now supporting our whole community in returning to swimming lessons. We also welcome Stoke Elite Trampolining who have started back with us as well as Karate and Boxercise. We are hoping to further increase our community provision next year.



## **Sports afternoon**

This was a huge success and students enjoyed taking part in our reduced Sports afternoon. It really did bring the Academy community together again. The photos of the afternoon demonstrated students and staff engaged in a variety of activities with lots of smiles. The overall winners were Voyager.

Special thanks to the PE team who put this together very quickly, enacting the plans of a very audacious group of year 10 students determined to ensure an event took place!

## **Student activity days**

On Monday and Tuesday this week we had a fabulous couple of days where students have embraced the opportunity to try some new activities, different challenges and to work with a group of students from their House. They have aspired; they have endeavoured; they have achieved! The effort, commitment and smiles were a delight to see and we hope they enjoyed it as much as the staff did. Our inaugural colour run was a huge success and again raised money for 2 charitable causes. The final figure is likely to be around £1000. We have posted several pictures on social media – be sure to take a look.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Hazel for the hard work in planning these events which make such a difference to our students.

## **HPV vaccinations**

A number of students were absent due to Covid isolation. Can I ask that, any child who didn't receive their HPV vaccination please contact the School Age Immunisation Team on 0300 1240366. Unfortunately, the Academy is unable to rearrange appointments.

## **GCSE results day for current Year 11**

GCSE results day will be on the 12 August which is much earlier than usual. We will write to parents with the full details of this shortly, but results will be available for collection from 9.00 am until 11.00 am on that day.

## **Preparations for September 2021**

We are working hard on our plans for September. We plan to move back to a more usual secondary school experience without bubbles and with full use of specialist areas. Please see the guidance from the Department for Education:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

Should the current government plans remain in place for on-site lateral flow testing of students before the start of term, there will be a staggered return to the Academy in September. Years 7 and 11 will be invited to complete their first lateral flow test at the Academy on Friday, 3 September and will then go home, returning on Monday, 6 September at 8.40am for the start of term. Years 8, 9 and 10 will return for their first lateral flow test on Monday, 6 September at 8.40 am, 10.40am and 12.40pm respectively and stay on site if their tests are negative. The Academy will then operate normal start and finish times for the remainder of the week, although there will be some disruption as we ensure a second test takes place during this time. We will then move to testing at home using the kits provided by the DfE.



If you have **not** already completed the new form for consent for testing from September onwards, please click the link below. Completion is required to give consent or to tell us you do not want your child to be tested.

[Consent Form for COVID- 19 testing in schools from September 2021](#)

Completing the form is a huge help to the administration team and prevents several phone calls. We thank you for your support with this.

### **Period 6 Year 11 2021-2022**

To support our students in their preparation for examinations and to create further opportunities to close any gaps, which may have occurred in their learning over the last 18 months, we will ensure that all Year 11 students take part in an extended day for 3 days of the Academy week - Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. These sessions will cover all subjects and we will provide full details in September. We very much need your support in ensuring your child takes part in these sessions which will improve their final outcomes.

### **Uniform and standards**

We are working closely with our school uniform shops to ensure we are ready for the new changes to the uniform legislation, currently awaiting royal ascent.

Our main school uniform remains the same as last year and our PE kit has changed only for new Year 7 students. Other year groups do not need to purchase new PE kit but when replacing outgrown kit, should purchase the new items which are a black sports top, black shorts and black socks. Additional optional items can be sourced from the uniform shops. These include black tracksuit trousers, black sports leggings (both now without academy badge) and drill tops (which replace the hoodie). I wanted to share with you some information from our uniform shops regarding their clothing. You can view the information here: <https://www.trenthamacademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Trutex-Uniform-Information.pptx>

Using the uniform supplier ensures we maintain quality, consistency, sustainability and have a uniform which is ecologically friendly. It is important the students follow the Academy uniform policy as unsuitable items will not be accepted in the Academy in September. We have adopted a flexible approach this year due to the pandemic, but this has resulted in a large variability in the type of PE kit and its quality which is not reflective of our Academy. We very much need your support with this as we try to maintain our very high standards. If you are in any doubt about the suitability of items, please contact the Academy before making a purchase.

We also include a gentle reminder to please ensure all hair colours and styles in September follow our policy of natural hair colour and no extreme hair styles, including no lines in hair or eye brows. Students should wear black leather/leather-look shoes. Again, if you are in any doubt, please contact the Academy before purchase.



## Parent Governors

We will be advertising for two Parent Governors for our Academy in September to complete our Governing Body. We will send out full details in September but any parent wishing to express an interest, please get in touch with the Academy. We will have a full election process should more than 2 parents wish to be involved.

## Staffing changes

We have 3 staff leaving at the end of this academic year:

- Mr Baker who has been with us for 2 years in the History department is leaving to complete a Masters in Politics at Keele University.
- Miss Green and Miss Stokes will be on maternity leave next year.
- Mr Mohammed, who is a Learning Support Practitioner, is leaving to completed his PGCE in Mathematics at Birmingham University.
- Ms Deakes, who has been an Academic Mentor through a DfE scheme.

We thank all these staff for their dedication to the Trentham Academy students and wish them every success in the future.

## New staff for September

- Miss Barr – History
- Mr Brown – Geography
- Miss Bibi – English
- Ms Woodward – Science
- Ms King - Modern Foreign Languages
- Miss Haitch Learning Support practitioner
- Mrs Jones - Inclusion Lead

## Summary

As we come to the end of another year, one like no other, I am so proud of the students and staff in what they have achieved this year. Our community continues to grow from strength to strength and I would like to thank you so much for the support we have received from parents and carers. Our motto of **Aspire|Endeavour|Achieve** (Dream Big, Work Hard, Persevere and you will be successful) really has been clearly evident in all aspects of our academy life. The staff have done an amazing job in providing the best education in the most challenging circumstances that all educators faced. I thank them for their dedication to our students and the Academy.

I wish our whole community a fantastic summer break and really look forward to seeing you in September.  
Your sincerely



**Mr M Whittingham**  
Headteacher

