23 October, 2026

ACADEMY LIFE

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Principal's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the first half term, it is a good moment to pause and reflect on all we have achieved since September. Although the weeks often seem to pass in a blur of lessons, activities and events, this newsletter is a reminder of just how much we've done.

The start of the academic year always brings a sense of excitement and fresh beginnings. New routines become established, friendships grow, and students settle into the challenges and opportunities. Throughout October, we have been delighted to see the students demonstrating the values that make our school community so special. Whether in classrooms, around the school site, through enrichment activities or in their everyday interactions with others, students have shown respect, integrity, responsibility, optimism and kindness in many ways.

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There are several short articles this month which include the excitement at Mallory Park with the Greenpower car, the Character and Arts celebration evening, the Youth Council and the anticipation surrounding our 2027 production! There are our usual celebrations of student achievements, and all the sport fixture results since the last edition of Academy Life.

All school communities thrive because of the strong partnerships that exist between home and school, and I would like to thank all parents and carers for the continued support you provide. Whether that is encouraging attendance, supporting homework, upholding our values, celebrating successes or helping students overcome challenges - your role is invaluable. The progress our students make is always strongest when there is a shared commitment to their success.





As we approach the half term break, I want to recognise the hard work and commitment shown by both students and staff since the start of term. The first half of the autumn term is always a busy one, and everyone has worked incredibly hard to make it a successful start to the year. The upcoming break offers a well-deserved opportunity to rest and spend time with family and friends before returning refreshed and ready for the remainder of the term. For Year 11, that includes their mock examinations and it's important they balance their time over the break between rest and exam preparation.

I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter and the many stories it contains. Wishing all our students, families and staff a happy, relaxing and safe half term break.

Best Wishes,

Emma Wagg
Principal



Year 11 Mock Exams: Ready, Set, Revise!

Year 11 mock exams are just around the corner. Consistent, focused revision over time is far more effective than last-minute cramming, so creating a realistic plan and sticking to it will help students feel confident and well-prepared when they return to school after the half-term break.

Remember, balance is key! We encourage students to maintain a healthy work-life balance by taking regular breaks, enjoying hobbies, spending time with family and friends, and ensuring they get plenty of sleep. Looking after wellbeing is just as important as academic preparation.

Parents and carers are reminded that an email has been sent containing the mockexamination timetable and important examination regulations. Please take the time to read this information carefully with your child, as all regulations must be adhered to throughout the mock exam period.

Good luck to all our Year 11 students. Stay focused, give it your best shot, and most importantly, believe in yourselves. You've got this!

BARCELONA 2027

There are still places available on our Barcelona trip, which is open to students in year 7-10 studying Spanish. If you'd like to register interest for your child, please complete the following form: **Barcelona Interest Form**



Charity Events

Throughout October, students and staff at Trentham Academy came together to support two important national charity campaigns. On 9th October, we took part in #HelloYellow, raising awareness of young people's mental health and supporting the work of YoungMinds. Students and staff wore an item of yellow with their uniform, while assemblies focused on mental health, wellbeing and the importance of seeking support when needed. We would like to extend a special thank you to our Community Support Prefects, House Captains and Deputy House Captains, who confidently delivered assemblies to their peers and helped share the important message behind the campaign.



A week later, the academy proudly participated in Show Racism the Red Card's Wear Red Day. Students and staff wore red to demonstrate their commitment to equality, inclusion and challenging racism. Through assemblies and discussions, students explored the importance of understanding different cultures, celebrating diversity and standing together against discrimination. Both events provided valuable opportunities for learning, reflection and community engagement. We would like to thank all of our students for their enthusiasm, participation and contributions, which helped make both awareness campaigns such a success.



Youth Council

By Artemis, Year 11

The Youth Council is a safe space for young children all around the city to express their true emotions about current events going on in the world and specifically, in our city. At the last meeting, we discussed the dangers of AI and how safe people believe it is, as well as discussing the issues we have currently with literacy/digital literacy, which we later on found solutions for. Overall, every meeting is an opportunity to learn something new, to speak up on issues we have, and to find solutions as a team which can later on have a positive effect on the youth in our city. A lot of new roles have opened up for those taking part in the Youth Council, including a regional event to Birmingham where a few of our members can go and discuss their views on particular topics, such as youth participation and public transport.

Race Day Success for Team Trentham!



Trentham Academy's race team, Team Trentham, enjoyed two exciting and action-packed race days at Aintree and Mallory Park, putting weeks of preparation, teamwork, and determination into practice on the track.

After early starts at both events, the team successfully completed scrutineering checks before taking on a series of races against strong competition from across the country. Their car performed exceptionally well throughout both days, with drivers demonstrating skill, confidence, and consistency, while the pit crew worked efficiently to keep everything running smoothly.

Beyond achieving impressive lap times, students gained valuable hands-on experience in engineering, problem-solving, communication, and teamwork. The race days provided an excellent opportunity to apply classroom learning in a real-world environment and collaborate with other teams who share a passion for motorsport and sustainable engineering.

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When the car wasn't on the track, the team remained focused on continuous improvement. Students practised driver changes, refined pit procedures, and exchanged ideas with other schools and teams to help further develop their vehicle and racing strategy. Their willingness to learn, adapt, and support others reflected the true spirit of the competition.

The team's hard work and dedication were rewarded with outstanding results. At Aintree, Team Trentham secured an impressive overall Bronze Award, and at Mallory Park they were honoured with the prestigious Spirit of Greenpower Award in recognition of their commitment to developing their car, supporting fellow competitors, and embodying the values of the Greenpower challenge.



Every member of Team Trentham represented the academy brilliantly, demonstrating resilience, enthusiasm, and professionalism throughout both events. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing what they accomplish in future races.

Congratulations to all team members, and thank you to everyone who supported us throughout the season!



Mobile Phone Update

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support in helping us implement our new mobile phone policy. Your cooperation has played a key role in ensuring a calm, focused learning environment for all students, and we are grateful for the positive way in which families have engaged with these expectations.

As an academy, we will continue to review the policy and monitor its impact to ensure it remains effective, consistent and supports the needs of our students. There have been instances of wilful damage to the pouches and we would encourage you to continue open conversations about why removing mobile phones as a distraction during the academy day is best for students.

Moving forward, if there is a change in circumstances such that your child will no longer be bringing a mobile phone into school, we kindly ask that you inform the academy as soon as possible. This can be done via a note, email, or message to the school. Keeping us informed will help us maintain accurate records and ensure our relevant monitoring and data systems remain up to date.

Annual Production

Rehearsals for next year's play have begun after two weeks of amazing auditions. We can't wait to show you the talent in our academy! We have a cast of almost 40 this year and can't wait to reveal the roles.



Character and Arts Awards Evening

Celebration and community spirit were at the heart of our recent Character and Arts Impact Award Evening, where we recognised and celebrated the outstanding commitment of our students to making a positive difference both locally and internationally.



Throughout the evening, we reflected on a range of inspiring community projects undertaken by our students, including visits to local care homes where they hosted bingo events, bringing joy and companionship to residents. We also celebrated the fantastic fundraising efforts for the City Dogs Home, demonstrating our students' compassion and dedication to supporting causes within our local community.

A highlight of the evening was hearing from six students who recently travelled to Ghana with African Adventures. They shared their experiences of immersing themselves in Ghanaian culture, exploring local food, music and dance, and working alongside schools to paint and tile classrooms.

The students also spoke passionately about their fundraising efforts before they left the UK that allowed them to deliver essential resources to the children they were working with.

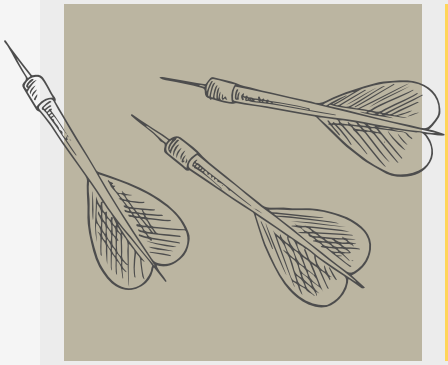
The evening was a wonderful celebration of character, service and creativity. We are incredibly proud of all the students who have given their time, energy and enthusiasm to support others, demonstrating the values of empathy, responsibility and global citizenship that make our school community so special.

Interhouse Competitions

The launch of this year's Interhouse Competition programme has seen a fantastic start, with students already showing great enthusiasm and house spirit. Our first event, the darts competition, proved a popular opening contest, while Monday saw the commencement of the Year 7 and Year 9 boys' football competitions.

Congratulations to **AABO**, who were crowned Year 7 champions, and **PWBY**, who claimed victory in the Year 9 competition. For Year 8, **VMRG** were victorious, and **VMRO** snagged a win for Year 10.

Away from the sports field, **Pioneer** House has taken an early lead in our weekly Sparx Reader competitions. However, we are only at the beginning of the competition cycle, and both **Apollo** and **Voyager** Houses still have opportunities to strengthen their positions as the term progresses.

















We encourage all students to get involved, with a wide range of competitions running throughout November. Year 7 students in particular have plenty of opportunities to earn valuable house points through the Maths Pumpkin Challenge, the Science *Build a Cell Model* Competition and the History Romans Project. In addition, our Foodbank Collection and Dance Competition are open to all students before a new programme of events is launched after half term.

With so many opportunities on offer, there has never been a better time to represent your house and contribute to the Interhouse Competition standings. Good luck to everyone taking part!

Sporting Highlights

We also attended the Y7 Partnership Games at Northwood Arena where some of Y7 students participated in a range of sporting activities to develop their teamwork, honesty, determination and self-belief.

Netball

- Y9 Girls Netball- 3rd in group
- Y11 Girls Netball- 3rd in group

Football

- Y8 Boys won 14-0 against Thistley Hough in the City Cup competition
- Y11 Boys won 5-1 against St. Thomas More in the City Cup competition
- Year 8 Boys beat OSSMA 3-0 in their City Cup Football fixture

Badminton

- Trentham beat OSSMA 16-6 in their most recent Badminton fixture

Cross Country

- Y7 & Y8 Boys came 4th overall in the City Cross Country event held at Trentham Academy. Y9 & Y10 Boys also came 4th in their event here
- Y7 & Y8 Girls came 2nd overall in the City Cross Country event held at St. Joseph's College. Y11 Girls came joint 1st in their event here



Form Tutor Awards – Autumn Term 1

Year 7			
AABO	Paige H	Jude P	Ruby O
AKGI	Niamh M	Amelie L	Freddie B
PESW	Alanna H	Jordan P	Chloe D
PJBL	Miller M	Alice W	Tiarna S
VBPH	Odette T	Connie E	Toby B
VMHU	Yvonne P	Vlad-Stefan V	Josh S

Form Tutor Awards – continued

Year 8			
AKSW	Liam C	Eva C	Muhammad B
ARBO	Isla S	Sophie W	Frankie M
PBPE	Amal K	Oliver S	Felicia C
PMRT	Hugo H	Harrison B	Esme T
VMRG	Esmae V	Angelo A	Sasha H
VSEM	Sophie B	Nick B	Anna C

Year 9			
ACAI	Gideon D	Ava W	Thomas M
AOMC	Sophia R	Esme W	Ayva E
PKBL	Charlie S	Beau B	Annabelle B
PWBY	Shay W	Freddie B	George M
VKSM	Dakota-Rose S	Zak H	Brad M
VJST	Evie-Rose B	Charlie C	Scarlett R

Year 10				
AHMO	Charlie C	Arley J		
APMA	Ella B	Rhys D	Jenul A	
PNWR	Livia F	Amelia R	Nathan B	Liam L
PWGA	Hollie R	Ava B	Sebby M	
VJEC	Rylee S	Jess H	Lillie Co	
VMRO	Emily B	Caden T		

Form Tutor Awards – continued

Year 11				
AACO	Hani N	Freya S	Millie R	
ABDR	Ellie S	Rowan L	Emily K	
PJMA	Harry E	Evie B	Majda A	Artemis H
PJDS	Rozh A	Sumayya A	Jasmine H	
VEBO	Aro S	Olivia R	Oliver A	
VKJS	Elif S	Joshua T	Brodii B	

Well done everyone on your achievement!

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Lydia I., who came third in the "Can you aerial?" Competition that took place in Liverpool on 18th October.

Well done!



October Sparx Reader Champions

- Odette, Eva and Nicole in Y7
- Holly, Milana and Sasha in Y8
- Scarlett, Evie-Rose and Jayden in Y9



Coming up in November



2 Academy Opens
3-9 Year 11 Mock Exams
12 Apprenticeship evening
13 World Kindness Day
17 Year 7 AU1 Reports
18 Year 8 AU1 Reports
19 Y8 Parents Evening 4 - 7 pm
27 INSET 4
30 INSET 5





Please let us know of any achievements you'd like to share in the newsletter by sending them to trentham@clt.trentham.coop, with 'Newsletter' in the subject line.

Student Rewards

Principal Phone Calls

Congratulations to the following students who received positive phone calls home from Mrs Wagg this month:

- Toby, Layla, Niamh, Joshua and Gracie in Year 7
- Bradley, Hugo H, Freya M and Ariana in Year 8
- Ayva-Lilly, Bradley M and Eloise in Year 9

Well done everyone!



Term Dates

Autumn 2026-27

Year Group	Date	Event
ALL	1 September 2026	INSET 1
ALL	2 September 2026	INSET 2
ALL	3 September 2026	Academy Opens
Y7 / Y9	4 September 2026	Academy Photographs – Year 7 & 9
Y6	10 September 2026	Open Evening 5 – 8 pm
Y6	23 September 2026	Open Morning 9:15 – 11 am
Y6	24 September 2026	Open Morning 9:15 – 11 am
Y6	3 October 2026	Open Morning 9:15 am – 12 pm
Y6	7 October 2026	Open Morning 9:15 – 11 am
Y6	8 October 2026	Open Morning 9:15 – 11 am
ALL	9 October 2026	Hello Yellow Charity Day
ALL	15 October 2026	A4L Day 1
ALL	16 October 2026	Show Racism the Red Card Charity Day
Y7	22 October 2026	Y7 Settling in Evening 3:30 – 5:30 pm
ALL	22 October 2026	Academy Closes
ALL	23 October 2026	INSET 3
ALL	26 – 30 October 2026	Half Term Break
ALL	2 November 2026	Academy Opens
Y11	3 – 9 November 2026	Mock Exams
Y11	16 – 20 November 2026	MFL Speaking Mock Exams
Y7	17 November 2026	Y7 AU1 Reports
Y8	18 November 2026	Y8 AU1 Reports
Y8	19 November 2026	Y8 Parents Evening 4 – 7 pm
ALL	27 November 2026	INSET 4
ALL	30 November 2026	INSET 5
Y10	1 December 2026	Y10 AU1 Reports
Y11	2 December 2026	Y11 Mock Results
Y11	2 December 2026	Y11 AU1 Reports
Y11	3 December 2026	Y11 Parents Evening 4 – 7 pm
ALL	10 December 2026	Christmas Lunch
Y9	15 December 2026	Y9 AU1 Reports
ALL	17 December 2026	Christmas Concert 6:30 pm
ALL	18 December 2026	Academy Closes
ALL	21 December 2026 – 1 January 2027	Christmas Holiday

Spring 2026-27

Year Group	Date	Event
ALL	4 January 2027	INSET 6
ALL	5 January 2027	Academy Opens
Y7, Y9, Y11	13 January 2027	Rewards Trip – Trafford Centre
Y8 & Y10	14 January 2027	Rewards Trip – Trafford Centre
Y9	21 January 2027	Y9 Parents Evening 4 – 7 pm
ALL	27 January 2027	A4L Day 2
Y8	1 February 2027	Y8 Preferences Assembly
ALL	4 February 2027	School Performance of *Oliver!*
Y9	8 February 2027	Y9 Core AU2 mock exams
Y7	9 February 2027	Y7 AU2 Reports
Y11	9 & 11 February 2027	Hospitality & Catering Practical Exam
Y8	10 February 2027	Y8 AU2 Reports
ALL	12 February 2027	Academy Closes
ALL	12 – 19 February 2027	Ski Trip
ALL	15 – 19 February 2027	Half Term Break
ALL	22 February 2027	Academy Opens
Y11	23 February – 1 March 2027	Y11 Mock Exams
Y11	26 February 2027	Y11 Group, Individual and Friendship Photos

Spring 2026-27 *continued*

ALL	4 March 2027	World Book Day & Trentham Prize for Fiction
ALL	8 – 12 March 2027	World of Work Week
Y11	8 & 9 March 2027	Y11 MFL Speaking Mock Exams
Y9	9 March 2027	Y9 AU2 Reports
Y5	9 & 10 March 2027	Y5 Transition Days
Y8	11 March 2027	Y8 Preference Evening 4:30 – 7:30 pm
Y10	16 March 2027	Y10 AU2 Reports
Y8	17 March 2027	Y8 Hallé Orchestra Concert
Y8	22 March 2027	Y8 Preference Deadline
Y11	22 March 2027	Y11 AU2 Reports
Y11	23 March 2027	Y11 Parents Evening 4 – 7 pm
Y11	23 & 24 March 2027	Y11 English & Maths Drop Down Days
ALL	24 March 2027	Academy Closes
ALL	25 March 2027	INSET 7
Y11	25 March 2027	Y11 English & Maths Extra Sessions
ALL	26 March 2027	Good Friday
ALL	29 March - 9 April 2027	Easter Holiday

Summer 2026-27

Year Group	Date	Event
ALL	12 April 2027	Academy Opens
Y11	19 April 2027	GCSE MFL Speaking Exams
ALL	22 April 2027	Presentation Evening 6 – 7:30 pm
Y11	27 & 28 April 2027	Y11 GCSE Art Exam
Y11	26 - 29 April 2027	Y11 GCSE MFL Speaking Exams
ALL	29 April 2027	A4L Day 3
ALL	1 – 4 May 2027	Barcelona Visit
ALL	3 May 2027	May Bank Holiday
Y10	6 May 2027	Y10 Parents Evening 4 – 7 pm
Y11	10 May 2027	GCSE Exams begin
Y9 / Y10	21 – 23 May 2027	DofE Training Weekend
Y7	25 May 2027	Y7 AU3 Reports
Y8	26 May 2027	Y8 AU3 Reports
ALL	28 May 2027	Academy Closes
ALL	28 – 31 May 2027	Normandy Trip
ALL	31 May – 4 June 2027	Half Term Break
ALL	7 June 2027	Academy Opens
Y9 / Y10	11 – 13 June 2027	DofE Expedition Weekend
Y9	14 June 2027	Y9 AU3 Reports
Y10	15 – 21 June 2027	Y10 Exams
Y7	17 June 2027	Y7 Parents Evening 4 – 7 pm
Y11	23 June 2027	GCSE Contingency Day
Y7	24 June 2027	Y7 Hallé Orchestra Concert
Y11	25 June 2027	Y11 Leavers Assembly
Y6	30 June & 1 July 2027	Induction Days
Y6	1 July 2027	Induction Evening
Y11	2 July 2027	Y11 Leavers Prom
ALL	2 July 2027	INSET 8
ALL	5 July 2027	INSET 9
ALL	7 July 2027	Activities Day
ALL	8 July 2027	Sports Day
Y10	9 – 11 July 2027	Battlefields Visit
Y10	13 July 2027	Y10 AU3 Reports
ALL	13 July 2027	Reserve Sports Day
ALL	19 & 20 July 2027	Summer Show (tentative)
ALL	21 July 2027	Academy Closes