

18<sup>th</sup> July 2024

## End of Year Letter 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you on behalf of myself and all of our wonderful staff here at TEMA. This year has been an incredible one for us here at TEMA with many things to celebrate. Improvements at the academy can only happen with help of our students and their families and I would like to personally extend my thanks to all members of our community who have made this year so special. As ever, I feel very proud to lead our school community and am delighted regarding the many successes we have experienced and all we have to look forward to in the coming year.

## This Term's Successes

This term we have seen students achieve incredible things and take part in a range of local and national events. Our performing arts team hosted a range of events and will this week be celebrating in our Manchester Week parade. Hundreds of students attended our Blackpool Trip, Sports Day was one to remember and we are also incredibly proud of how the students completed their end of year assessments with some excellent revision and study habits being built.

This year has also seen some incredible sporting successes with our Year 8 netball team winning the Manchester cup, our Year 7 Futsal team winning a Greater Manchester competition and our football and basketball teams progressing to finals and top three league positions. Our annual Prom has also taken place this term and it was a wonderful evening to celebrate the achievements of our class of 2024. We look forward to receiving their results this summer as we are expecting our best ever. I am also very proud of the ways in which students have been living our values with thousands of REACH points awarded to recognise student achievement. As ever, you can now see how your child is performing in school through downloading the ClassCharts App.

## Attendance Matters

The DfE have recently released new guidance and statutory processes regarding attendance. We will write to you separately to outline new procedures regarding penalty notices. As ever, we will operate a support first model and would encourage our families to continue to work in partnership with us to support attendance. We know that attendance is the strongest predictor of academic outcomes and we know that good attendance can only be achieved through real partnership.

To help with attendance and punctuality we will be making some slight alterations to the start of the academy day. The **academy day will formally begin at 8.25** and students **must be on site and in their scheduled lesson** so that we can ensure all students have the right equipment and mindset and are ready to learn. In line with new DfE guidance we will also be closing the registers at 8.55. If students are late after that time they will be classed as absent

for their morning session which will significantly impact their attendance. As a school, we are aiming for 100% attendance on the first week of school.

### **September Start Dates**

- Students in Years 7 and 11 will return on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 8.25am**
- Students in Year 8, 9 and 10 will return on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 8.25am**

### **Uniform and Equipment**

We expect all students to be in full academy uniform at all times. Below I enclose the uniform list that we expect from students:

<https://www.theeastmanchesteracademy.co.uk/parents/academy-uniform>

For the start of the academic year I would particularly like to draw parents attention to footwear and bags. Footwear must be **all black** and not include visible coloured logos. Furthermore, bags must hold A4 size books and fit in your full PE kit. Small bags such as bumbags, manbags and small handbags are not permitted. I would also like to add that we ask that all skirts are pleated as many students have found finding appropriate items difficult. The pleated skirts can be purchased at any supermarket and the academy will be happy to support any students who are struggling with uniform.

If students are not wearing the correct uniform we will loan equipment to students or ask them to return home to change. Ensuring students wear the correct uniform and adhere to academy standards is one of the best ways to ensure students are set up for learning.

As always, we will provide students with their planners, TEMA Reads book and fully equipped pencil cases, if they do not have one. We simply ask that students look after this equipment as it is at great cost to the academy. Being fully prepared and equipped for learning will ensure learning time is not wasted students will be able to purchase replacement items but we ask that great care is taken to look after their equipment.

As ever, mobile phones are not allowed to be used in the academy. If an adult sees a mobile phone they will confiscate this item until the end of the school day. This procedure helps students to learn effectively but allows them to have their mobile for safe travel to and from school. **Any students not complying with this instruction will receive appropriate sanctions.**

### **Behaviour and Academic Standards**

Next year we will be making some changes to the behaviour processes in school. Mr Birrell will be the Deputy Headteacher with overview of behaviour supported by Miss Koval as the Assistant Headteacher. With the implementation of Class Charts in January the feedback that we have received from parents around the information that has been shared with them is overwhelmingly positive. We have decided to redraw our escalation process to make this clearer for all parties.

Each C3/C4 issued in school will carry negative points. C3s will collect 1 negative point and C4s will collect 2 negative points. When the thresholds above are triggered a set of criteria will be applied that will help us to support improvements in behaviour.

Our focus will remain on rewarding students that live our academy REACH values every day. This year we had 700 students eligible for the Blackpool reward trip which was fantastic to see. The reward shop on Class Charts has allowed students to strive for positive behaviour points to be able to spend in the shop on things that they would like.

Like attendance, great behaviour improves student learning and we know that students' outcomes determine their next steps and we want to ensure students have as many opportunities to excel.

## **Exciting News**

This year we have also been awarded a significant sum by the council to invest in our SEND facilities and specialist teaching areas for subjects such as performing arts and science. We held our consultation with parents and have used that to shape our designs. The construction team begin in July and will be working on the building throughout the academic year. Some of the developments include:

- Bigger dining spaces and a third lunch sitting to help students enjoy their lunch time
- Wider corridors to support student movement
- New multi-use games area to support PE and have bigger play spaces for children to enjoy and the community to use in the evenings and weekends
- More new toilets added
- New performing arts suite
- New technology classrooms
- Five new SEND and inclusion teaching spaces to support students with additional needs
- All new science facilities

## **What should I do if I have any concerns during the summer break?**

If you have any concerns you can use our 'Thoughts and Worries' service. Simply visit the site - <https://www.theeastmanchesteracademy.co.uk/general/thoughts-and-worries> and report your concerns or worry.

Once again, I would like to thank you for all your support and wish you a happy and safe summer. I am very much looking forward to the new academic year and hope to see all students back bright and early in September.

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Bowen  
Headteacher