



17 December 2024

End of Term Letter

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the festive season, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and to reflect on the many successes we have achieved as a school community. This term has been filled with hard work, dedication, and exciting opportunities for our students, and I am extremely proud of everything they have accomplished.

I would like to share key highlights and updates from this term, along with important information for the Christmas period.

## Reading is Fundamental

As you know, we value reading and its many benefits at TEMA. Every teacher at TEMA is a teacher of reading.

Every term, each student is gifted a book. Their Progress Leader reads this to them daily and it is part of their required equipment. Discussing with your child what they have read and the places they have read about will help them to recall key information and remind them how important reading is. Please encourage your child to read for pleasure and for knowledge.

For recommended texts linked to what they have been reading please see the table below:

If you enjoyed your TEMA Read...	Why not try...	Term 2 we will be reading...
A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness	<a href="#">Coraline by Neil Gaiman</a>	Boy Everywhere by A. M. Dassu
Kick by Mick John	<a href="#">Crossover by Alexander Kwame</a>	I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
Trash by Andy Mulligan	<a href="#">Once by Morris Gleitzman</a>	Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo
The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton	<a href="#">Looking for Alaska by John Green</a>	Curious Incident by Mark Haddon

An additional reading list has been shared with students in Year 7, 8 and 9 via Google Classroom.

For KS4 students, they will have their knowledge organisers, revision guides, access to Seneca and GCSEPod and in Year 11, students should have re-read A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens (one of their GCSE texts). They were given a copy of this in October. In January, they will receive their own copy of An Inspector Calls by J. B. Priestley.

## Home Learning and Revision

Since September, students have worked really hard to keep up to date with their home learning and revision. All students have been given a Term 1 Knowledge Organiser. This contains important knowledge and vocabulary related to what they have been studying. In January, they will receive their Term 2 Knowledge Organiser. This is part of their equipment,

should be in school with them every day and includes everything they need to know. Within the booklet, you will also find helpful revision activities that will help them to learn this content.

Year 11 students can also revise their subjects on specific websites. For example, in science, students can complete daily goal quizzes on Tassomai to complement and build what they are learning in science lessons. For Maths, all students can use MathsWatch to revise and consolidate learning and complete quizzes. For English, students can use Seneca to revise for their GCSE English and for other subjects too. All of the above resources will help students to know and remember more.

### **Class Charts**

Are you staying connected to your child's education? With the Class Charts Parents App, you can easily track their progress, behaviour, and homework all in one place. Currently, only 20% of parents are using this valuable tool regularly, but we'd love to see more families benefit from its features. Signing up is quick and simple, and it provides real-time updates to help you support your child's learning journey. The code for your child's account was sent out in a letter last year but if you need reminding of this please don't hesitate to contact your child's year team and we can get this resolved for you.

### **Student Leadership**

This term, student leaders have developed their leadership and teamwork skills through various training and community projects. Y10 and Y11 leaders participated in *Wise Up* training, enhancing teamwork through outdoor activities. JLT members supported *Feed My City* by preparing meals and food bags for those in need. KS3 student leaders completed *The Diana Award* Anti-Bullying training and are now working to strengthen the support we offer to students.

### **Proud to REACH**

This term, we introduced an exciting new initiative that allows students to showcase work they are particularly proud of. Every Friday, students have the opportunity to present their achievements to the headteacher where they are rewarded with luxury stationery items. This initiative has been a fantastic way for students to celebrate their hard work while demonstrating our TEMA REACH values.

### **TEMA Building Transformation**

Following the successful completion of phase one of the school's refurbishment project, new, state of the art classrooms have been built for performing arts and SEND which our students are now able to enjoy, providing them with the best possible facilities to learn and develop.

Phase two, which began at the beginning of December and is due for completion in February, will result in new classrooms and office spaces on the third floor, and the completion of a modern, state of the art food technology classroom on the ground floor. These improvements have been met with great enthusiasm by students, and we're thrilled with the positive impact they're having. Thank you to parents, carers, and the wider community for your support during this transition.

### **Winter Warmth Stall**

This term, we launched our Winter Warmth Stall, offering winter coats and clothing to members of our local community. Following the positive impact, we are pleased to announce that more stalls will be held in the new year. Look out for further details coming early in the new year.

## The TEMA Offer

At TEMA, we believe the curriculum extends beyond the classroom, offering students access to various activities including the arts, culture, and sport. This term, we've organised a series of Christmas external visits as part of our TEMA Offer, running in the final week of term. For an overview of this term's exciting events and trips, as ever, you can take a look at our website: <https://www.theeastmanchesteracademy.co.uk/news>.

## General Reminders

### Uniform

We know that after the Christmas holidays students are keen to show off their new presents if this is a piece of jewellery or some trainers etc. We would like to therefore remind students and families of the Academy's uniform:

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

We would remind families that mobile phones are not permitted to be seen in the academy and that footwear should be all black. We will be having a renewed focus on our uniform standards during next half term so please can you ensure students are coming to school complying with the expectations set out above.

### Equipment

All students are required to bring a school bag. This must be big enough to fit A4 booklets in as students will be expected to have their home learning booklet, academy planner, TEMA Reads and knowledge organisers with them at all times. Students should also have a fully stocked pencil case which has been provided by the academy.

Uniform standards and equipment are checked daily by the year teams. If any student requires equipment after Monday 6th January 2025, they will have to use their Class Charts points to buy it.

### Key dates for next half term:

- Year 10 Parents Evening- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025
- Year 9 Parents Evening and Options Choices- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025

### Staying safe over the holidays

We are committed to keeping students safe over the holiday period.

The academy will be closed to students from **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December (12pm)**, reopening on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**. During this time, we encourage families to make use of the support and resources available on the Safeguarding section of our website:

<https://www.theeastmanchesteracademy.co.uk/about/safeguarding>.

Our website also offers *Thoughts and Worries*, an anonymous and confidential service where students, families, and the community can report concerns such as bullying, anti-social behaviour, or other safety issues. You can access this service here:

<https://www.theeastmanchesteracademy.co.uk/general/thoughts-and-worries>

### Out of Hours Christmas Support

For additional support during the holidays, the following services are available:

- NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/>

- MIND <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/helplines/>
- Samaritans <https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help/contact-samaritan/>

We wish you a safe and restful Christmas break and look forward to welcoming students back to the academy at **8:25am** on **Monday 6th January 2025**. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to the new term ahead.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jackie Bowen".

Jackie Bowen  
Headteacher