



9th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another half term has flown by and our improvement journey continues at pace, working with Northern Education Trust to transform the life chances of our students. I hope you have been able to enjoy some of the highlights via social media as they really do demonstrate the praise culture and raised standards of work and behaviour that we have developed.

I am sure you will want to know some of the recent highlights:

- After school English, Maths and Options enrichments were well attended again. If your child is in Year 11 keep encouraging them to come along and boost their knowledge! Some students are also coming along to Tuesday sessions led by the Northern Education Trust director of English and over 60 students viewed our first Sunday School revision webinar.
- Year 11 tutor time is now focused on English, Maths and Triple Science. We have changed the team of tutors in Year 11 so that specialist teachers are delivering these extra lessons.
- PROUD Thursday continues to be a huge hit. This week 165 students brought their work along and shared learning-focused conversations with the staff.
- The Year 7 and Year 8 reading interventions now take place every day on the boulevard. We are all very proud of the students involved in these.
- We've introduced a break time Maths quiz competition for KS4 students.
- The Respect ME performances were a big hit this week, the Year 9 Scholars group had their awards ceremony at Manchester University and a group of Year 10s went on an introduction to University visit. Developing a broad and ambitious understanding of the world is an important part of our curriculum and there are some exciting developments coming soon.
- We hosted the primary school indoor athletics competition, and our Boccia team did us proud in a recent competition.

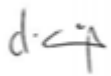
We are about to launch our new attendance strategy, and details of phase one will be shared with you shortly. I recently [wrote to you](#) about the importance of good attendance and cannot emphasise enough how vital this is to the future success of your child. Some parents will have had our new punctuality phone calls which are being made whenever a student arrives 5 minutes late to school. These have already reduced the amount of lateness to school and is just the start of our strategy to eliminate the disruption to learning that lateness causes, and to significantly increase student attendance.

This will run alongside our ongoing work to continue to improve the behaviour and culture of the school. One key element is growing our strong praise culture, with applause moments, applause boards, praise postcards and PROUD events. This has widened to include our DEAR reading lessons and soon will include new enrichment opportunities and rewards.

ACTING HEADTEACHER: Mr D Cumming

Equally, our Expectations for Learning ensures we continue to raise the bar in terms of student conduct. Every parent expects that their child can come to school safely and succeed in their learning. No student should be allowed to disrupt the learning of another student, nor can physical threats or actions be tolerated within our school community. Unfortunately, we have had to take action this year where students have not met these standards, and we will use the full range of sanctions available to us in the most serious cases, particularly in relation to violent conduct. This does include taking action against students who encourage others to misbehave and those who misbehave outside of school - this is in line with Department of Education guidance which states "schools have the power to sanction pupils for misbehaviour outside of the school". I must thank all those parents who have contacted us to express their strong support for this robust approach.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'd. cumming'.

Donald Cumming
Acting Headteacher