

RE: End of Term Letter

16th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term has been an incredibly busy one for students here at TEMA with many significant highlights. Firstly, I would like to congratulate our KS3 Girls' Football Team who have consistently shown their excellence winning a host of key matches in the league this term. I am also delighted to share that students in Year 9 and Year 11 Boys' Football Teams have made the Manchester Cup finals and we wish them every bit of luck for the finals in March. Our basketball teams have also competed at the highest levels and continue to show excellence in the Manchester Leagues.

Students in Performing Arts were excited to watch a production of the Lion King at the Palace Theatre whilst students in Year 11 attended a Lowry theatre trip to watch An Inspector Calls in preparation for their upcoming GCSE examination. A range of trips and visits have also taken place in KS3 this term with students visiting universities, workplaces and subject specific rewards. This half term has also seen the launch of Saturday Academy for Year 11 students, attendance and engagement have been excellent so far and we know it will make a real difference to their outcomes in the summer.

Cost of Living

We know that many families continue to experience difficulties with the current cost of living crisis and so I am delighted to tell you that we will be **extending our free school meals initiative** to all students until Easter. This means that all students will receive a free lunch at the academy up until the Easter Holidays. Please contact the academy in the usual ways if you require any further help and support and use the council website to look out for help in your local area.

https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/10050/help_with_the_cost_of_living_crisis

Ofsted

In January we were visited by an Ofsted Inspection team I am delighted to share with you the outcome of our most recent inspection:

<https://www.theeastmanchesteracademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/02/tema-ofsted-report-jan-23.pdf>

The academy has improved so significantly that the special measures judgement has been removed and the academy has been judged as overall 'requires improvement' with three 'good' judgements. We are delighted that the inspection team could see the incredible improvements that are happening at the academy and what a transformed place it is to work and learn. The inspection team were particularly impressed with the behaviour, personal development and leadership within the academy. They also noted significant improvements to the curriculum that were tangible and making a difference.

Strike Days

As you will be aware from my previous letters, the NEU union continues to take strike action aimed at the government to look at both the funding for schools and teachers' pay and conditions. Strike action will affect the following dates:

- **Tuesday 28th February**
- **Wednesday 15th March**
- **Thursday 16th March**

The arrangements for the strike days will be the same as the previous date with students in Year 11 and vulnerable students welcome to attend.

Year 11 PPE Exams

Year 11 PPE Exams begin on Tuesday 28th February and are not affected by the strike. These exams are a great opportunity for students to practice what they have learnt and identify any gaps we need to close before the final GCSE examination season starts in May. We are very proud of the Class of 2023, and I know they will achieve excellent results in the summer.

Return to School

After the half term break, at TEMA we have a scheduled INSET Day followed by the national strike day so each year group will return to the academy differently.

- **Year 11 (and vulnerable students) – Tuesday 28th February**
- **Year 7, 8 9 and 10 – Wednesday 1st March**

Standards and Uniform

After the half term, as is usual, we will be having a real focus on standards of uniform and ask for your support in this matter. It's vital that students meet the academy expectation regarding uniform as it helps students feel a sense of equality and belonging.

We would also like to remind families regarding our expectation of phones and electronic devices. Students are not permitted to use phones during the academy day and if seen, they will be confiscated. We know phones are an essential part of modern life but know they can provide huge distraction and stop students being as focused as they could in their learning.

We hope you and your families have a safe and relaxing half term break and we look forward to hearing about all the activities students have enjoyed over the holidays.

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Bowen
Academy Headteacher