

**Ref: End of Term Letter**

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term has been an incredibly busy one for students here at TEMA with many significant highlights. This week has seen our annual diversity and culture week and students have had the opportunity to explore their identity and the wider world. This has culminated in an excellent performance and our first TEMA Diversity festival. This term has also seen some incredible sporting successes with Year 9 and Year 11 Boys Football Teams lifting the Manchester Cup, an excellent achievement. KS3 girls have also had many successes in their league this term and have been incredible ambassadors for the sport. Our basketball teams have also had some excellent results and we are very proud of them.

### 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 Summer. This means that all students will receive a free lunch at the academy up until the Summer 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](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 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. There are currently ballots taking place and I will update you on any further strike action in due course.

### Year 11

Year 11 students have recently completed their PPEs and are working incredibly hard to achieve their targets. After the holiday we will resume Saturday Academy and will be running some compulsory revision sessions at the end of each day to support students at this vital time.

## **Return to School**

After the holiday all students will return to the academy on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April**. We will be having a big drive on attendance and punctuality next half term and students' during half term 5 will be used as the criteria for the Alton Towers reward trip planned for June. It's imperative that students are in attendance every day and on time. If there are any absences, letting us know the reasons and length of absence is very helpful and ensures we can support students appropriately.

## **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.

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

It is also imperative that students bring their equipment to school each day; planner, pencil case and reading book. Being prepared for the day helps us save valuable learning time.

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.

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

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.

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

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Bowen  
Academy Headteacher