



20 December 2023

End of Term Letter

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I would like to say a big thankyou on behalf of myself and all of our wonderful staff here at TEMA. This term has seen a great many successes here at the academy such as; our wonderful festive lunch, an enormous range of trips and visits, sporting victories in football, basketball and futsal whilst also developing students' academic and social achievements. This half term alone staff have distributed over 20,000 achievement points reflecting how students live our values each day. This term Year 11 students sat their first set of PPE examinations and the results show some incredibly strong performance. We are proud of each and every one of them and thank the academy community for supporting our students to achieve highly.

As ever, I feel very proud to lead our school. We have seen a number of new initiatives really embed this half term and I would like to thank you all for your support with our raised expectations including students' home learning, bringing appropriate equipment and the TEMA Reads initiative.

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. Teachers have also worked hard to plan reading opportunities within lessons and as part of home learning. 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.

For recommended texts linked to what they have been reading and studying at KS3, 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	Coraline by Neil Gaiman	Anne Frank Diaries
Kick by Mick John	Crossover by Alexander Kwame	I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
Trash by Andy Mulligan	Once by Morris Gleitzman	Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo
The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton	The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky	Curious Incident by Mark Haddon

For KS4 students, they will have their knowledge organisers, revision guides, access to Seneca and GCSEPod and in Year 11, students will have A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens (one of their GCSE texts). In January, they will received their own copy of An Inspector Calls by J. B. Priestley.

Please encourage your child to read for pleasure and for knowledge.

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.

As you know, our approach to home learning changed this year – all students have been required to complete these activities **daily**. Impressively, students have adapted and have been building the important habit of organisation. In the New Year, we would appreciate your continued support with home learning.

Each year it is clear to see that the students that regularly access Seneca, complete home learning and work hard in lessons are those that achieve the best results.

Academy Developments

At TEMA we have a wide and diverse range of enrichment and extra-curricular clubs. Please encourage your child to attend. A number of clubs are open to students at the end of each day and I would strongly encourage all students to take up the offer as it will help not only their social skills and develop their talents but also allow them to make new and exciting friendships with other students. Students can receive a free breakfast in the bistro between 7.30-8.15am each day before entering their homebases. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to socialise, receive a healthy breakfast and complete work and other academic activities.

We recently sent out a consultation as we have been asked by the local authority to accommodate an extra 20 children per year group over the next five years to begin in September. The responses have been overwhelmingly positive. We are now commissioning work to look at improved facilities at the site including a much larger dining space, wider corridors and enhanced classroom facilities and I look forward to sharing these plans with you all next term. In January work will begin on the two new basketball and netball courts that will enhance the play facilities for students at social times and for extra curricular clubs. These facilities will also be available to hire to community groups to widen participation within the community.

Holiday Active

During the winter break we will be opening our doors to students for the holiday active programme. TEMA Holiday Active will be running Wednesday 3rd January - Friday 5th January 10am-2pm with fun sports and crafts activities for your child. This is open to TEMA students and their siblings over age 9. Lunch will be provided and no pre booking is required.

Saturday Academy

In January students in Year 11 will be invited to participate in our Saturday Academy initiative. Staff have generously volunteered their time to support additional revision and lessons to ensure students have access to small group tuition and are in a position for maximum success in the summer.

General Reminders

Uniform

All students will be expected to return to TEMA in full school uniform. This includes a TEMA blazer and tie. Footwear should be completely black with no colourful slogans or brand names. Replacement items can be purchased from Ziggy's -

<https://ziggysschoolwearmanchester.co.uk/category/schools/secondary-schools/the-east-manchester-academy/> . Families should note that trousers should be school trousers.

Leggings, tracksuit bottoms and combat style are not part of the TEMA school uniform. Please view Ziggy's website for details, orders can be placed online.

Mobile Phones/EarPods

These must not be seen or heard whilst students are on site. If students need to contact family members during the day, they can do so in their year office whilst supervised by a member of staff. Students who choose to use their phones will be asked to hand them over to a member of staff, these will be returned at the end of the school day.

Equipment

All students are expected to arrive at school equipped and ready to learn. Please ensure that your child has a bag that is large enough to place A4 size books and equipment inside it. This will include a PE kit, Journal, TEMA reading book, Knowledge Organiser, and pencil case. Pencil cases should include pens (black, red and purple. An HB pencil, eraser, pencil sharpener and ruler. Other stationary items are optional.

Bicycles

Students are allowed to ride to school on their bicycles, but they must chain these securely in the bike-shed on site. Students must not come to school on electronic scooters. It is against the law for children to use electronic scooters, users must have a category Q entitlement on their driving licence, please see the link to the government website for details. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users>

We look forward to welcoming students back to the academy at **8.15am on Tuesday 9th January**. Once again, I would like to thank you for all your support and wish you a happy and safe Christmas Holiday. I am very much looking forward to the new half term and hope to see many of you over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Bowen
Headteacher