

This week's update includes: End of term; Year 11 exam board updates; Man Utd Half Term Sports Club; Uniform update; Mental Health Week; Girls Football Tournament; Internet Safety Update; Performing Arts Update; Year 10 Parents' Evening; Key Dates for next half term

We reach the end of half term 3. I hope you have noticed that I have resisted mentioning the pandemic over recent weeks. I think - fingers crossed - that we are inching back towards normality. This week, the **examination boards** have issued additional guidance for our Year 11 students to help them focus for their examinations, bearing in mind the time that has been missed. So, we will be focusing our teaching with them now on those key topics leading to their examinations ... so little time and so much key ground to cover. **Attendance and attitude towards work** are the cornerstones of GCSE success between now and the summer term for Year 11. They will have one final round of mock examinations in March as well.

Half term club. Great to see that our **Manchester United Half Term Sports Club** is completely full. Niccola Massey - our Hub Officer - tells me we have 40 students signed up, and that some of our excellent Sports Ambassadors are helping her out with the coaching too. Great to hear and we will send some pictures after half term.

Uniform. Uniform has not been at the forefront of our minds recently, with staff challenging face coverings as a priority. However, it's time now to focus back on ensuring students are dressed appropriately for school. So expect us to be tougher on uniform from next half term. Mr Willis sent a uniform letter last week and you can access it [here](#) if you need to do so.



Children's mental health awareness week: Wow!
What a wonderful week raising awareness for children's mental health and well being. Students across school were delivered an assembly by kooth.com, in form time students created support balloons as well as looking at how racism can affect mental health and our senior students spent hours designing and making badges to sell during the week. This was topped off with 2 days of cake sales led by our senior students. Thank you to every single person who donated or baked cakes for the sale, they went down a treat. A big well done to our senior students for their initiative, and to Miss Hibbert for co-ordinating their work. So far they have raised £140 to donate to 'Young Minds' a charity that works closely with children and young people, which is fantastic!

Last Friday (4th February) a group of Year 8&9 Girls took part in the **MU Foundation Hub Tournament** at Dean Trust Ardwick. The Girls put on a fantastic performance and effort,
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and despite the adverse weather conditions came 2nd! The Girls showed excellent teamwork and represented the Academy brilliantly!

2nd Parental Update on Internet Safety Day. [Here](#) is Part 2 of our Parental Update on Internet Safety. This week's focus is protecting children against issues with social media and with online gaming.

Performing Arts News:

Must See: *Big Night of Musicals* by the National Lottery, available on iPlayer - it's free to watch and a great way to spend your time over the half-term. [BBC One - Big Night of Musicals by the National Lottery](#) It features "Ease on Down the Road" from *The Wiz* at The Hope Mill Theatre, which our year 11s were lucky enough to see for free earlier this term - guaranteed to put a smile on your face!

Open Day at The Debut Academy on Thurs, Feb 17th - and they still have college places available for 2022-23 and 2023-24. The Debut Academy is the only specialist college for Performing Arts in Stockport and Ms Brothers/Miss Hibbert would be glad to introduce you - if you'd like to know more, please see [Debut Studios | Dance & Performing Arts Stockport | Academy & College](#)

Dance and Drama Clubs: We'll be back after the Half-Term with

- Drama Club regularly on Wednesdays afterschool, 3:15 to 4:00 p.m. in A4
- Dance Clubs regularly on Wednesday, for year 7s and Thursdays for yrs 8 & 9, 3:15 to 4:00 p.m. in A2. Everyone is always welcome! Please speak with Ms. Brothers and/or Miss Hibbert for further details.

Year 10 Parents' Evening is on the Thursday when we return - 24th February. Year 10 students have been given letters today, but [here](#) is a copy of the letter for Year 10 students.

Key Dates for next half term: Half Term 4 is always a busy half term. Here are the key dates for your diaries:

Monday 21st February	Return from half term at 8.40am
Thursday 24th February	Year 10 Parents' Evening, 4pm to 7pm
Thursday 3rd March	Year 8 Choices Information Evening
Thursday 10th March	Year 9 Parents' Evening, 4pm to 7pm
Wednesday 16th March	Year 11 Final Mocks begin (until 23rd March)
Thursday 17th March	Year 8 Parents' Evening, 4pm to 7pm
Thursday 24th March	Year 9 Options Evening, 4pm to 6pm
Friday 1st April	School finishes for Easter at 3.10pm

We return on Monday 21st February. Have a good week off school.