

Our ref: PS3

9 February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

We are now approaching the half-way point of the academic year. As an academy we are working hard to build a culture of praise. We are very proud of our students and all their efforts and achievements. We have recently introduced APE cards (Amazing Achievement, Perfect Progress, and Excellent Effort) into the academy. Many of you have already received these and we hope you joined us in congratulating your son/ daughter in earning this praise.

There has been lots of exciting things happening outside the classroom too. Fifty students joined us on a fantastic trip to the Etihad stadium to watch Manchester City versus West Bromwich Albion. The students represented the academy impeccably, with one lucky student getting to meet the players.

Our three Boccia teams managed to secure Gold, Silver and Bronze in the Doncaster finals and will now go on to represent Doncaster at county level. An outstanding achievement, based on the hard work that the students and staff have put in to their training.

Our HEPPSY launch was extremely successful. HEPPSY is a government funded scheme which is encouraging more students from areas such as Doncaster into higher education. This had led to many of our students visiting universities and taking part in degree level work. If you would like any further information please visit <https://extra.shu.ac.uk/heppsy/> or the academy website.

As we are now at Praising Stars 3, attendance is still a huge priority. Please ensure you do everything possible to get your child to the academy whenever they are well enough to do so. At 90% attendance a child is missing the equivalent of half a year of education over their 5 years of secondary school, which has significant impact on their potential grades. We know that every lesson missed means that there are gaps in a student's knowledge. Students with 97%-100% attendance make one to two grades extra progress than students who have attendance at or below 90%.

We are currently undergoing improvements to the front gates into the Academy. Shortly after half term the gates will have secure access and will be closed with entry to the academy carpark and site controlled by reception. We ask parents who drive their children to school to use the drop off point on Leger Way as access to the car-park will be restricted. This change is to improve student safeguarding and safety.

There are mock exams planned for weeks commencing 19th March and 9th April for year 10, 11 and 13. To support students with revision there is a supportive revision evening on 27th February. We look forward to seeing many students and parents attend this event.

Finally, for parents of students in year 11, please be aware that teaching staff will be running revision sessions for students during the remaining school holidays. Letters will be given to students inviting them to sessions that are personalised to their needs. Please encourage them to attend these sessions.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V GRAY". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'V'.

Mrs V Gray
Vice Principal