



10th January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year and I hope that it is both a successful and prosperous one for you and your family. I wanted to write to you to update you on certain aspects of our Academy policies and to remind both you and your child about our expectations and standards. I would also like to share some highly positive developments within the Academy with you.

Mobile phones and other hand-held devices

I would like to make it clear that mobile phones are not allowed to be used anywhere on our premises during academy hours. The Academy and Delta Trust policy clearly states that the use of mobile phones is prohibited and that **'if a student has their mobile phone confiscated then their parent/carer can collect the phone that evening or a subsequent day. A student, however, cannot collect their phone for themselves until the last day of that half-term'**. Any student who refuses to hand over a mobile phone to a member of staff, when required to, will be isolated pending a fixed term exclusion on the grounds of refusing a reasonable request and transgressing Academy policy.

Whilst I do understand the importance of students bringing a mobile phone to school to enable parents/carers to contact their children before and after school, contact via their mobile phone is not permitted during the academy day. If mobile phones are switched off and completely out of sight in students' bags then there will not be an issue. **If you wish to pass on a message or speak to your child during school hours, please contact the Academy.** Students attending after school clubs, interventions or enrichment activities should notify parents/carers of the time they expect to finish to ensure they don't cause unnecessary concern. You will be notified of set detentions through notifications in your child's planner. It is your child's responsibility to bring these planned detentions to your attention.

Social Media Platforms

Recently there have been some serious issues brought to light by the police regarding the distributing of inappropriate and indecent images by school students in the East Riding, through social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. Some of these images and videos have become 'viral' and have circulated both regionally and in other parts of the country. This is an increasingly worrying issue for schools and the police. **At Hull Trinity House Academy, we take a zero-tolerance approach to inappropriate use of social media and the distribution of malicious communications or indecent images.** Our students have been told repeatedly about the inherent dangers of inappropriate use of the internet and social media and how to stay safe online.

I would strongly advise you as responsible parents/carers to carefully monitor your child's internet access and ensure that they are using social media apps appropriately and safely. Parents/carers should also be mindful of the age restrictions in place for using such social media platforms. **As an Academy, we are duty bound to contact the appropriate authorities, including the police, should we feel that students in our care are placing themselves and others at risk or if there is potential criminality taking place.** Whilst I do not wish to cause alarm by highlighting this to you, I do feel that it is important that you are aware of the seriousness of some of the situations that our students may find themselves in if they have inappropriate or illegal content on their mobile devices or seek to distribute it to other students.

Travel to and from the Academy

The vast majority of our students that use Hull's bus services do so safely, respectfully and courteously and are a credit to their families and the Academy. However, a small minority of students are being boisterous and, on occasion, displaying anti-social behaviour on local bus services. I am informed that this has been a recurring issue in recent years. I am in the process of communicating with the local bus companies to try and establish who these students are. Any students that behave in a manner that brings the Academy into disrepute by displaying anti-social or unsafe behaviour on public transport, travelling to or from the Academy, will be excluded and may well be prohibited from using the bus services in future.

Please discuss this issue with your child to establish if there is unacceptable behaviour on the bus that they catch to or from the Academy. Explain the importance of being a responsible and considerate passenger and please encourage them to inform you and the school if Hull Trinity House Academy Students are misbehaving. Your son, like the paying public, is entitled to a pleasant and

safe journey home. **I will have no qualms in supporting the bus companies if they refuse to transport poorly behaved students, wearing our uniform who are causing a nuisance or disturbing and upsetting other passengers.** Firm and decisive action will be taken to ensure that their behaviour improves. This may include being refused access to the bus service and/or receiving serious sanctions from the Academy, including fixed term exclusion or possible permanent exclusion.

Attendance

The attendance of your son at our Academy is paramount to their education. Days missed from their learning can have a severe impact on their progress and achievement but also on their self-esteem and confidence as they try to catch up on the work that they have missed and fill gaps in their knowledge. In order to raise our attendance above the national average, our focus this term will be on students with low attendance levels and we will be working closely with students and their parents/carers where attendance is below expectation. It is only through the support of parents and carers, in partnership with the Academy, that we can have a positive impact on attendance and ensure that your son receives the education that he deserves and thereby, maximize his potential. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure good levels of attendance and we will expect your support. In order to reward those students with exceptional attendance there will, each half term, be a prize draw for students who have achieved 100% attendance. Last half term the prize was a Google Home Mini. If you have concerns regarding your son's attendance or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Invisible Good Reward Trip

I am pleased to inform you that on the last week of term we organised an 'Invisible Good' trip to see 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi' at the cinema. The purpose of this visit was to reward those children who are consistently well behaved, try their best and attend the Academy on a very regular basis. In total we had 191 students who enjoyed this treat and it was a very special occasion, marking a very positive end to the term. This represents over double the number of students that were eligible for the event last year, even with a more exacting attendance target of 98%. We will continue to identify and reward such exemplary students, through a variety of methods, to ensure that we recognise their contribution to the Academy but also acknowledging the hard work, dedication and commitment they show in trying to progress and improve. If your son did not qualify for last term's trip, each new term marks a fresh start so they can still qualify for the Easter rewards visit

Opening of Carmelite House

Hopefully, you will have seen the recent publicity surrounding the opening of Carmelite House. We were very proud to welcome Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal to officially open our new Nautical College which will see Hull Trinity House Academy expand into post-16 maritime education. The opening of this site promises to revive the city's nautical history by continuing a tradition of maritime education going back more than 200 years. Specialised Maritime and Nautical Studies courses will be delivered, utilizing innovative virtual simulation technology, creating industry standard seafaring and boatmanship experiences and scenarios for enrolled students. My thanks go to the Vice Principal, Nathan Goodman and Head of Maritime Studies, David Forth who have driven this project forward to provide such an asset, not only to our Academy but to maritime education in Hull.

Important Dates for your Diary

Thursday 25 th January 2018 from 4.30pm	Year 8 Parent's Evening (link with Options)
Thursday 8 th February 2018 from 4.30pm	Year 11 Parents Revision Evening
Friday 9 th February 2018 at 3.00pm	School Closes for Half Term
Monday 19 th February 2018 at 8.40am	School re-opens

Learning Mentors

Lastly, I would like to inform you of a change to the organisation of our learning mentor team. We have expanded this team from 4 to 5; therefore, where this team formerly were attached to houses (Year 7 to 11) they will now take responsibility for year groups as below.

Yr 7: Ms S. Leake
Yr 8: Mr J. Mclocklan
Yr 9: Ms C. Simpson
Yr 10: Ms M. Jaques
Yr 11: Ms S. Hodgson

As always, I would like to thank you for your continued support. I place a very high value on the partnership between parents/carers and the Academy and therefore please contact me if you have any issues that you wish to discuss personally.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. G. Moffatt
Principal