

11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are well. It has been a short but busy half term. Covid has continued to affect our community but the resilience and leadership of staff and students has really made me proud and I would like to thank both teachers, support staff and also the site team, catering team and cleaning staff for enabling us to continue to run. I also appreciate the support of all parents- and of year 8 and 9 in particular for their understanding over the past few weeks. I was at a conference yesterday where it was revealed that our attendance is above both the national and Sheffield Average- this is down to the support of our families and carers and the determination of our students and staff to keep turning up, day in day out even when things are tough.

### **Ambition**

It is very pleasing to see the ambition of our year 11s this year. This is reflected both in their attainment in their recent assessments and also the applications for our sixth form, which is over treble what it was this time last year. The year 11s must continue to work hard over half term, stick to their revision timetables and ensure that they continue to see improvements in their mocks ( PPEs-Pre Public exams), directly after half term.

### **Knowledge**

We are seeing record numbers of students completing their homework this term and we really appreciate the support of parents and carers with this. A year 8 student asked me the other day why we are so passionate about home learning. The answer is simple. Our students are every bit as talented as students from private schools elsewhere and we want them to have the knowledge to access the same universities, jobs and high level apprenticeships that students from top schools nationally can access. If you look at the link between students who regularly do their homework and the quality of their grades at the end of GCSE, the evidence is strong. To compete with the best, our students must secure grades to do this and doing their homework regularly will support them with this ambition.

### **Determination**

Several of our year 9s have received prestigious mentoring from Irwin Mitchell solicitors while others have received 1:1 mentoring from top graduates from the university of Sheffield who have spoken highly of the ambition and improvements shown by our students between visits.

I was very proud of all year groups and their attention to the recent assemblies on knife crime. The senior police officers involved said that they were the politest and best-behaved students of all the schools they had visited in Sheffield. We really value our collaboration with our local officers and continue to work closely with them.

### **Leadership**

It was very pleasing to see 5 of 8 the successful short listed students from across the entire City for the Sheffield youth cabinet elections coming from our academy. The successful candidate(s) will play a key role- working with

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**Principal: Mr R. Freeman**

Sheffield city council- in helping develop the city and we are really proud of the ambition of these students and their desire to help others. These future leaders of Sheffield are embodying our mission statement to create Sheffield's influential young leaders of tomorrow.

I wish you and your families a wonderful February break and I look forward to seeing many of you in the cinema events after half term.

Kind regards,



Mr Freeman  
Principal

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