

21<sup>st</sup> October 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Important Information from the Academy**

As we reach the end of the first half term, I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you as an update, whilst also outlining some key information. It has been a very positive half term and the Academy feels very calm and purposeful. Year 7 have made an excellent start and Year 11 have reacted well to the demands of their final year.

#### Heightened Expectations & Academy Uniform:

In our pursuit to become an outstanding academy we've worked with staff and students to heighten expectations. I'm really pleased with the manner in which students have responded to these expectations with students openly commenting on how they feel we've further improved the atmosphere around the site whilst also enhancing their learning experience within lessons. A copy of the new Behaviour Policy can be found on the academy website ([www.manorcroft.org.uk](http://www.manorcroft.org.uk)). Linked to this, I'd also like to thank parents/carers and students in supporting the academy's uniform policy in particular with regards to no lines in hair, no tight trousers or jeans and skirts being knee length and made from traditional material not jersey.

#### Reading Books:

As part of the Academy drive to support literacy there is now an expectation that all students have a reading book with them in school. As you will be aware GCSE exams are getting harder and there is increased demands on the quality of writing and reading. There will be a number of activities in lessons, form time and social time where we will be encouraging students to read whilst in school. As parents we would really appreciate it if you could also support this from home and encourage your child to read, ideally every day. Information about reading books will be given to students in assemblies after half term.

#### Rewards:

You may be aware that we have changed our rewards strategy recently. The new Tri-Stars rewards system went 'live' on Monday this week and we hope that as many students as possible will be able to gather reward stamps that will then allow them to be entered into a prize draw at the end of each term.

#### Numeracy Challenges:

During lunch times students can now enter into a prize draw by completing numeracy challenges in the dining hall each day. There are some fantastic prizes on offer and this will allow students to improve their mathematical skills.

Continued

### Winter Weather Conditions:

As we head into the depths of winter, we always expect to remain open in the event of severe weather conditions (snow); however, as you will appreciate this isn't always possible. Where this is the case, we will communicate our intentions to all students and parents via the following lines of communication:

- **Academy Website** – all latest news and events are held on our academy website ([www.manorcroft.org.uk](http://www.manorcroft.org.uk)) and we will ensure that any academy closure is featured on the website as soon as it is announced.
- **Text Message** - to the mobile phone of contact person number 1 on the parental contact details we hold in school (if you have changed your mobile phone number in recent months, please contact Miss Murgatroyd or Mrs Coughtrey on Student Reception so that we may update our records).
- **Kirklees LA website** – [www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolclosures)

### Parental Engagement Forum:

Many thanks to parents who attended our consultation morning last week; we really appreciate your feedback and support. As an Academy we value feedback from all our stakeholders and will be taking on board all of your comments and suggestions. We are planning another session before we break for Christmas and we will feedback on our actions from the previous meeting and update you on other Academy news and developments.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, as parents, for your continued support for the academy, as always I am privileged and grateful to you all. We look forward to the next half term which starts for all students on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 8.25 a.m.

Best regards



Andy Barnett  
Principal