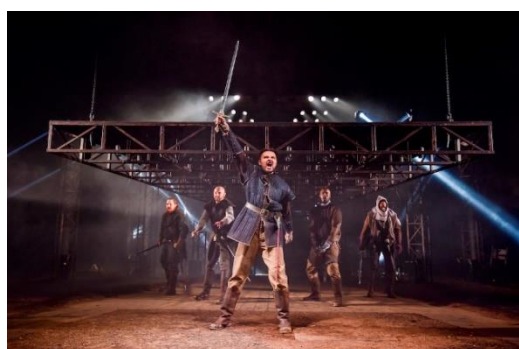


8th April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have had an enjoyable Easter break and all students are ready to return to the academy tomorrow for an 8.25am start as always. It is hard to believe we are already embarking on the summer term, which seems to have rolled around very quickly, but there has been so much to celebrate already this year.

Our young athletes continue to excel, with our Year 8 netballers undefeated in the Wakefield League, our Year 7 footballers reaching the Wakefield Schools League final, and Cathedral students continuing to dominate in all disciplines in the Trinity Mat Games, including our fantastic indoor athletics winners (pictured). These students truly capture what it means to 'Be Your Best' which is one of our Expectations for Excellence.



Our Year 10 and 11 students also exemplified their best, during our recent trips to see Macbeth at the Yorkshire Playhouse. All students study Macbeth for their English Literature GCSE, and this was a wonderful opportunity to see the play live on stage. We were delighted to be taking full year groups on this trip; nothing replicates live theatre, and we loved sharing this experience with our students. We were also extremely proud that their conduct was exemplary and other visitors to the theatre commented on what an excellent audience they were.

On the theme of live theatre, our Year 7 and 8 CAPA Juniors put on a stunning performance of Matilda at the end of February. The talent, confidence, professionalism of these year groups is incredible at such a young age, and we were blown away by the production. A huge well done to all involved.

World Book Day was also a fantastic celebration of literature, with years 7, 8 and 9 enjoying the 'Quest to cure Zeus' as part of our Greek Myths theme. It was brilliant to see so many students emersed in the challenge, which required them to read, solve riddles and seek out solutions. Students also received their free World Book Day books, and we used the day to celebrate our reading rich culture.

There have been some stand out moments recently which celebrate our knowledge rich curriculum and commitment to expert teaching and learning. In February, we were awarded the Computing Quality Mark for excellence in Computing curriculum delivery from the National Centre for Computing Education. There are very strict criteria for this award, and receiving it is a much-deserved accolade to the Computing team.



Our commitment to high quality financial education was also recognised when we were asked to host 'Money Box Live' with BBC Radio 4. We were delighted to discuss the work which goes on across maths, citizenship and PSHCE lessons, ensuring financial literacy for all our students. You can still listen again on BBC Sounds by clicking [here](#).



And the love of teaching and learning from our staff, was in full force, with a very large contingent attending ResearchEd in March. This is a national conference, and we were very proud to have five staff members presenting aspects of their practice. This is a voluntary staff training day, which takes place on a Saturday, and the number of staff attending really demonstrates the commitment of our teaching staff to being their very best in the classroom for our students.

This commitment, from teachers and students, is never more evident than in the summer term, as we head into the Year 11 exam season. Mock results day on the final day of last term, was a hugely valuable opportunity for our Year 11 students to reflect on their progress so far and prepare themselves for these last few vital weeks of preparation before the final exams start in May. Attendance is key, and we expect students to be in school everyday until their very last exam, where teaching staff will be on hand to support them every step of the way. Further details will be shared by the year 11 team if you have a child in year 11. We wish every Year 11 student the very best of luck during these life-changing final weeks of school.

Finally, at this time of year, we like to canvass the thoughts and views of parents and carers. It is so important to us to hear from you, and the results of the parent survey play a significant part in our improvement planning for the new academic year. You will receive a separate email later today with the details about our parent survey – I really hope you are able to take part.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support, as we work together to provide the very best education for our students.

Best regards,

Anna Gillinder
Principal