



Thursday 15th December 2022

Dear parents and carers,

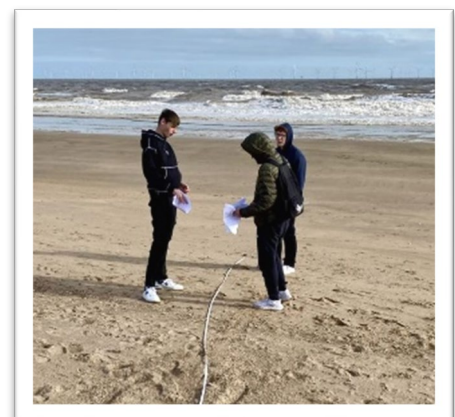
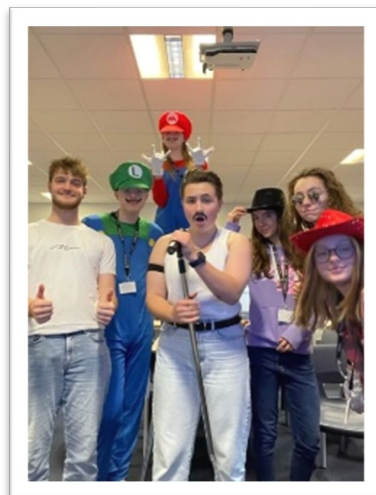
End of term letter – December 2022

As the autumn term draws to a close, I wanted to share our very best wishes for the holiday season. I hope you and your families enjoy a restful Christmas and a happy new year.

The end of term provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on the fantastic achievements of our students, staff and the community so far this year.

Notable achievements

Our post 16 provision continues to go from strength to strength, building on their fantastic summer exam results to create an environment where students achieve 'excellence within a caring community'. The newly established Students Union have represented the academy at lower school parents' evenings and



open evenings, as well as running a programme of fundraising and social events.

Student enrichment has been launched across the curriculum, including sports activities, creative clubs and opportunities for leadership. We are also pleased to be in the planning stages for off-site school trips and residential visits, as well as events to mark milestones in students' school journeys, for example year 11 prom.

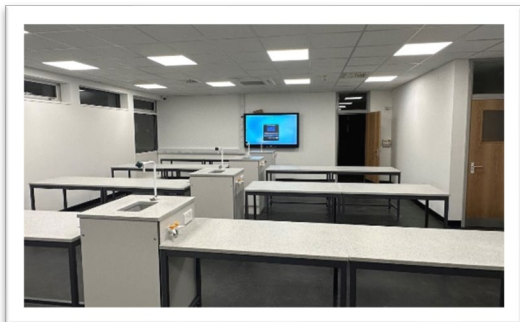
The Christmas Fair organised by Big Kirk Hallam was well attended and it was lovely to see so many familiar faces including staff, students, parents and alumni. Our links with the local community are deeply important to us, and our community ethos is what makes our school a special place to be.

School improvements

In the school building itself, we have been overseeing a programme of building works happening at the academy to improve the school environment for the benefit of staff and students. We are grateful to our Multi-Academy Trust 'Nova Education Trust' who have funded these works at a cost of approximately £1.7 million.

Our science labs refurbishment has installed four laboratories on the upper floor of the school and one on the ground floor. This will enable us to provide a fuller programme of practical science for all key stages and ensures that students are using top-spec scientific resources.

The windows across school have been replaced and a rolling programme continues to ensure that all windows are completed by students return after Easter 2023. This will have environmental and financial benefits as we consider our energy use, as well as providing comfortable working settings in classrooms.



Toilet blocks will be completely stripped out and replaced with brand new toilet facilities on a rolling programme, which has already started with the toilets in Learning Support. These will be designed in a U shaped with floor to ceiling cubicles for total privacy. Every toilet block will be finished around February half term and as they are ready they will be opened up to students. The rolling programme of closure/refurbishment has been planned so that the appropriate ratios of toilet facilities for students are still covered.



Work on a security fence is currently underway which will be in place in the New Year. This will separate vehicle access and pedestrian access and give the site additional security.

Our new Learning Resource Centre (Library) is currently being developed, and we look forward to welcoming Mrs Garvey from January who will be our school Learning Resource Centre Co-ordinator. This will be a warm and welcoming space where we hope many thousands of students will find and develop a love of reading for life.



Students have been incredibly respectful as the building works have been carried out, and we would like to thank them for their maturity as they move around site.

Uniform reminder

In a push to be the smartest school in the community, all students must return after the Christmas holiday with full and correct uniform. Our uniform policy is available on our website at

[Uniform and Equipment | Kirk Hallam Community Academy \(kirkhallamacademy.co.uk\)](https://www.kirkhallamacademy.co.uk) Please get in touch with the academy if you are having any difficulties at all in managing students uniform as we have avenues of support available to families.

Attendance

Our whole school focus on attendance has been discussed in many previous letters. This is the foundation of any successful school and we are determined to improve overall attendance. We expect to see all our children meeting the governments minimum expectation of 95%. Can I please remind all parents and carers that if, in any exceptional circumstances, your child is not able to attend school, you **must** inform the attendance team of **each day of absence until their return**. You should do this by telephoning the main school number which is 0115 930 1522.

Culture

This term we have outlined of in-school systems to parents, which are based around developing children's character. Our character traits are kindness, respect, communication and tenacity, all of which fall under the overarching value of responsibility. These support the development of the whole child. Please take the Christmas holidays and beyond as an opportunity to talk about how children can take responsibility for both themselves and their own impact on others.

In January, we will be launching the new academy 'Culture Code' which has been developed directly from our shared vision for the school. Our Culture Code will support our drive to raise expectations and improve standards across the school. These will be built around our responsibility foundations.

Responsibility Foundations



KIRK HALLAM
COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Every student takes responsibility to...



**Attend every day
and be on time**



**Be ready to learn and
actively participate**



**Wear the correct uniform
throughout the day**



**Always have the
correct equipment**



**Have their mobile phone switched
off and away in their bag**

We look forward to seeing students return to the academy safe and well after their Christmas break on Monday 9th January 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C Turner
Headteacher

Mr D Lloyd-Jones
Deputy Headteacher