

9<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this half term, please note that the academy is closed on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 for a staff training day. The academy will reopen to all students on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026. I hope all families enjoy a safe and well-deserved break and we look forward to welcoming students back refreshed and ready for the next half term.

Thank you for your continued support this half term, whether that is ensuring exceptional attendance, supporting learning at home, attending Parents' Evenings, encouraging participation in enrichment activities or working in partnership with us day to day. Your commitment makes a real difference to our students and to the strength of our academy community.

#### **Attendance – Changing Lives**

I am delighted to share that our academy's attendance is at its highest in recent history. This reflects the strength of our shared commitment to our young people. There are 24 hours in a day and students spend approximately 6 of those hours with us in the academy. Your influence and support at home remain absolutely critical. When attendance is exceptional, we are able to change lives together.

Exceptional attendance enables students to achieve, belong and thrive. Every lesson matters and small gaps in attendance quickly become gaps in knowledge. By ensuring your child attends every day, on time and ready to learn, you are directly supporting their success. Attendance is also directly linked to opportunity within the academy. Many of our rewards, celebration events, enrichment experiences, trips and visits are based on positive attendance and conduct.

#### **Our KS3 Valentine's Disco will take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February.**

To be eligible to purchase a ticket, students must have 100 percent attendance up to and including Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. Students must also have demonstrated the expected behaviour for learning within the academy. Tickets will be cost £3 (**cash only**) and will be available to purchase on the night from Student Reception.

#### **Weekly Curriculum Updates – Supporting Learning at Home**

A reminder that our weekly curriculum updates are directly linked to your child's Knowledge Organiser and set out precisely what is being taught each week at Key Stage 3. This level of curriculum transparency is not common practice and provides families with clear insight into what their child is learning and how best to support them at home. With only 6 hours in school each day, the partnership between academy and home is vital. We strongly encourage all parents and carers to access these updates via the academy website.

#### **Family Support**

If you feel your family would benefit from additional support, please visit our dedicated Family Support page at <https://ashhillacademy.org.uk/family-support/>. This directory brings together trusted local, community and national services to support children, young people, parents and carers across Doncaster. It provides clear descriptions and direct contact links so families can find help quickly and confidently. Challenges relating to emotional health, behaviour, attendance, housing, finances and relationships can often be reduced when support is accessed early.

### **Reducing Barriers to Learning**

At Ash Hill Academy, we are fully committed to reducing barriers to learning. We support families by providing:

- Free uniform to all Year 7 students, with further support available where needed
- Free breakfast every morning from 8.00am for all students
- Free equipment in lessons to ensure no student is disadvantaged
- Free enrichment opportunities across the academic year
- Free Life of a Student trips and visits as part of our personal development programme
- Tablet devices available before school, at break, lunchtime and after school
- An academy library open daily from 8.00am for reading and study

The holiday is an ideal opportunity to replenish essential equipment such as black and green pens, pencils and rulers, and to ensure students have the correct academy approved calculator for maths, the Casio FX83GT-CW Scientific Calculator in black, which you have the option to purchase from the academy at a cost of £11.00, through MCAS App., under products.

### **Site Improvements – Continual Investment**

We are committed to continual investment in our site to ensure students benefit from safe, modern and aspirational surroundings. Work will shortly begin on installing a new fence spanning across the side of the Porter building, further enhancing site security and safeguarding. This reflects our ambition to provide world class facilities for our community.

### **Parking and Site Safety**

While the vast majority of families park considerately, a small minority continue to park on the grass verge at the front of the academy and near the access gates between the academy and Coppice School. This creates safety concerns due to reduced visibility, increases congestion, and causes damage to the grass verges, which then require taxpayers' money to restore and repair.

We therefore request that all drivers park legally and considerately, ensuring that crossings, gates, and grass verges are kept clear.

Additionally, we continue to experience instances of parents/carers using the school drive and car parks when dropping off and collecting students. For the safety of all students, parents/carers are reminded not to use the school drive or car parks for this purpose.

We thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and accessible environment for all members of our school community.

This half term has been filled with hard work, progress and success and I am incredibly proud of what our students have accomplished.

Yours sincerely



**Mr M Hicks**  
**Principal**