



# MALTBYLEARNINGTRUST

Exceptional Experiences. Successful Lives.



## TRUST UPDATE

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MARCH 2021

*Delivering exceptional learning experiences that enable all young people to thrive in a competitive world and lead successful and fulfilling lives.*

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO:

It was wonderful to see all Academies in the Trust welcome children back into school last week. Following an extended period of testing undertaken across the secondary phase, all children returned ready and eager to learn. We understand that some families may have been somewhat anxious about the return but I'm delighted to report that the transition back into school went particularly smoothly with high levels of student attendance and engagement across all settings.

This latest period of lockdown has been particularly difficult for all concerned, however the response from teachers, school staff, children and parents/carers has been quite remarkable. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support through these extraordinary times. Challenging as it has been, the COVID pandemic has taught us a great deal about the potential of online learning and how we can use technology to stay connected to each other, to our students and their families.

The ambition of leaders in the Trust throughout this time has been to maintain the 'Exceptional Learning Experiences' for all children and young people regardless of whether they are engaging in lessons from within the classroom or from their kitchen table. The engagement from our children and their families has been fantastic and reflects the strong home/school partnership established in each of our learning communities over recent years.

We recognise that this year has been particularly difficult for parents and carers with the challenges faced of trying to meet your own deadlines whilst supporting your children with their home learning. Staff across the Trust have commented positively about the level of support afforded to our children from parents, carers and other family members through this period and have appreciated your positive feedback on the different learning activities provided.

Keep safe and well.

**David Sutton**

## OUR VISION:

Delivering **exceptional learning experiences** that enable all young people to thrive in a competitive world and lead **successful and fulfilling lives**.



# SAFETY MEASURES IN SCHOOLS

**The safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff is our number one priority and is at the heart of every decision that we make.** Therefore, it is important to remember that the return to school and colleges does not mark the end of the national lockdown. For this reason, I would strongly encourage you to continue to be cautious.

Parents are encouraged to use and reinforce with children the social distancing rules at school and at home and to continue to wear protective face-masks, especially on school premises.

A thorough risk assessment of each Academy has been completed to ensure all children and young people are being protected at all times, and are working together to prevent the spread. Each Academy risk assessment can be found on individual Academy websites.


## KEY POINTS:

- **Face coverings must be worn by students in secondary schools – this is a temporary measure that will be re-assessed at Easter. Primary school children are not required to wear them.**
- Secondary and Post 16 students will be asked to carry out the rapid lateral flow coronavirus tests at home twice a week.
- **Children will be taught within their class groups or with their 'bubble' within a whole year group. Any books, games and shared equipment can be used within that group but must be cleaned if then used by another bubble.**
- If your child or any other member of your family 'bubble', shows symptoms, it is vitally important that you keep your child(ren) off school and get the symptomatic person a PCR test as soon as possible.
- **If a pupil or teacher has symptoms or a positive diagnosis, the Academy will contact local health protection teams immediately so those in close contact with the child or teacher can be traced. Students in the same bubble or year group could be asked to self-isolate.**





# REMOTE LEARNING



Across the UK, children and young people have continued to have their education disrupted and as a Trust, we are doing everything in our power to support our schools, pupils and staff, so we can ensure everyone can continue to thrive and succeed despite the impact of Covid-19. You might recall completing a questionnaire recently about your child's Academy, detailing how effective our remote learning, online classes and student resources were during the period of school closure. This gave us an invaluable insight into how our students coped at home and how effective we were at providing a full and rounded curriculum in such difficult circumstances.

**We continue to be in awe of the way in which our school community has, and continues to pull together and has found ways to carry on, connect and collaborate, to achieve more together!**

Below, I will detail some of the feedback we received, and how we responded and adapted our methods to ensure our students received the best learning experience from home, as possible.

*"The breaks students are given between lessons are short. This is limiting the opportunity for any external exercise and fresh air in daylight which is detrimental to both health and learning ability. Please can you include some outdoor exercise time within the timetable."*

**OUR RESPONSE:** Following feedback and discussions with leaders we modified our timetable to reduce the amount of screen time for students. Lunch breaks were extended and we introduced more practical projects and 'homework' so that students could complete their work away from screen.

*"More feedback and praise to help keep kids focused & motivated."*

**OUR RESPONSE:** Feedback to children was increased and more targeted either in written form over Learning Apps, or in verbal form during live lessons. This also aided the frequency of feedback of parent to teacher on progress and attainment where required.

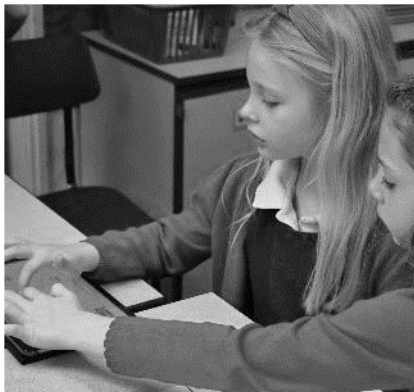
*"Some resources are difficult to see and/or access if you're working on a phone."*

**OUR RESPONSE:** Our full allocation of laptops and dongles were delivered promptly to those who needed them to remove barriers to learning.

*"Perhaps a schedule/ timetable for parents to refer to? I don't always know what work my Y3 child has been set."*

**OUR RESPONSE:** Clear timetabling of remote learning activities were sent out weekly and followed the relevant year group curriculum.

# GOOD NEWS FROM ACROSS THE TRUST



## WATH ACADEMY

Over the last 8 weeks, Wath Academy have undertaken a huge makeover in their Blue Gym. Students have returned from lockdown to find an amazing climbing wall, fully equipped with safety harnesses and helmets!

## MALTBY ACADEMY

Maltby Academy's English department gifted Year 7 and Year 8 students with their very own book to encourage them to find entertainment in reading whilst the lockdown restrictions are still in place.



## RAVENFIELD PRIMARY ACADEMY

Students are taking part in the Children's Hospital Charity Bears of Sheffield exhibition, they have worked together to design their bear sculpture which will be displayed in Sheffield as part of a sculpture trail of over 150 bears!



## MALTBY MANOR ACADEMY

Year 4 students at Maltby Manor took part in a 'Roman Army' experience day last week, with students embarking on a long walk, setting up camp, building their own tents and then lighting a campfire for them to cook their own toast.

## SIR THOMAS WHARTON ACADEMY

Staff at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy celebrated Mental Health Week by allowing all students to come off timetable at a specified time, turn off their screens and take some time for themselves.



## MALTBY LILLY HALL ACADEMY

To celebrate World Book Day, staff at Maltby Lilly Hall and other primaries created a 'Masked Reader' video where children were challenged to guess who was reading from behind a mask!



## MALTBY REDWOOD ACADEMY

Maltby Redwood have teamed up with Tesco and FareShare UK to start a 'community supermarket' initiative – sharing any surplus food with the Maltby Redwood community.

# GOOD NEWS FROM ACROSS THE TRUST

## SIR THOMAS WHARTON ACADEMY

Students are taking place in an Academy-wide Pop Bottle Rocket Challenge. Using their science skills and knowledge, students have to find inventive ways to launch rockets into the air and win points for the House!



## WATH ACADEMY

Leaders at Wath Academy were asked by Sheffield Hallam University to present to their trainee teachers on Online Learning. The University had looked at the provision offered by secondary schools in the local area and determined Wath's to be the strongest!



## MALTBY ACADEMY

Maths teacher Mr Bradford has been holding remote extra-curricular cook-along sessions during lunch and evenings for all students who are remote learning to ensure they can have a healthy lunch and evening meal.



## SIR THOMAS WHARTON ACADEMY

Staff launched a mobile library to ensure that all students have access to literature during lockdown! Students could send in their book requests through MyEd and the books were then delivered to their home.

## MALTBY REDWOOD ACADEMY

Despite the restrictions, children at Maltby Redwood have been experiencing some amazing wider curriculum activities, including a virtual trip to the Jorvik Viking Centre, a workshop with a Roman soldier, a virtual zoo visit and Chinese New Year celebrations!



## SIR THOMAS WHARTON ACADEMY

Well done to Rylee who after a 6-week trial at Rotherham United FC U15's has been offered a scholarship with the club, and a big congratulations to Holly, Year 10, who has joined Sheffield United FC women's U16's team!

## MALTBY MANOR ACADEMY

Children received a letter from Rotherham General Hospital this week thanking them for their very lovely letters, which were posted to thank our NHS key workers for their amazing efforts throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.



# NEW WEBSITES

You might have noticed that your child's Academy website looks a little different to how it used to! This is the same for all of our Academies – this new website format has been specifically designed to allow a user-friendly experience for parents, carers and students! See below just a few of the new and updated features:

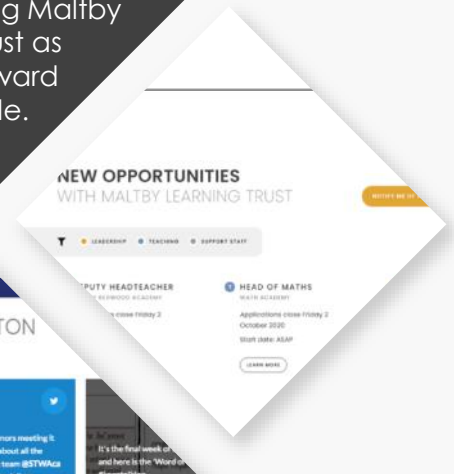
A new, interactive school calendar, allowing parents to see events as they're added, and see Academy term dates at the click of a button.

An easy to follow menu structure to allow parents and students to find exactly what they're looking for in a matter of seconds.

A redesigned and dedicated recruitment area to highlight new opportunities and make joining Maltby Learning Trust as straight-forward as possible.

Comprehensive and detailed Class Pages and Meet the Team sections to allow parents to get to know the names and faces of the staff in their child's school.

A dynamic newsfeed to allow parents to access all of the most recent school news and information from the website, Twitter and Facebook, all in one place.



# KEEPING INFORMED

Whilst any important information will always be posted on your child's Academy website, our social media accounts are the best way to keep informed about activities and events happening both in school and remotely.

Our Academy Facebook and Twitter accounts are extremely active which allows both students and parents to interact with us and share their own news, which we will always celebrate and share. We are always pleased to hear from you!

The Academy accounts are as follows:

Facebook: **Wath Academy**  
Twitter: @wathacademy  
Instagram: @wath\_academy

Facebook: **Maltby Academy**  
Twitter: @maltbyacademy

Facebook: **SirThomasWharton**  
Twitter: @STWAcademy  
Instagram: @sirthomaswharton

Facebook: **MaltbyManor**  
Twitter: @maltbymanor

Facebook: **MaltbyLillyHall**  
Twitter: @MaltbyLillyHall

Facebook: **MaltbyRedwood**  
Twitter: @RedwoodMaltby

Facebook: **RavenfieldPrimaryAcademy**  
Twitter: @RPAcademy1



Is your child a remote learning legend this week? Well done to all those children who achieved our very special remote learning award!



An amazing piece of artwork started on Friday and finished today by Rae in Cherry class! Can you guess what their theme is? I wouldn't want to get in his way! A Headteacher's Award is coming your way, Rae!



All students who have attended 100% of their lessons will receive a rewards pack straight to their door next week!  
#NeverGiveUp



Simply magnificent!  
A homework from Sam C in Year 7 paying tribute to Captain Sir Tom Moore.



Calling all Year 10 students! We've launched a new incentive called #teamtentrump. If you overcome or learn something new, please e-mail Mrs Mundy with a photograph and we'll celebrate it!



Get involved in the #BigGardenBirdWatch!  
Go bird watching from your house/garden for one hour.  
#wearravenfield



A huge thank you to the parent who dropped off some treats for the staff who are working so hard in school to support the vulnerable children and children of critical workers. It has certainly brought a little bit of happiness into our day.



We are launching our mobile library on Friday this week! Keep your eyes peeled!  
#perfectreadingweather  
#iamreading  
#worldbookeveryday



Get involved in our remote extra-curricular activities this week. Choir club tonight, cook-along's on Thursday and Friday!





# COPING DURING LOCKDOWN

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## REST AND RELAXATION

As we continue to manage the ongoing uncertainty of the pandemic, it is important that you allow yourself to relax and ensure you get some rest.

Rest and relaxation are actually different to each other. When we truly relax, our mind and body become rejuvenated and refreshed. This allows us to rest more easily and to have quality sleep. Relaxation is not just about taking it easy and doing nothing – we can be active and busy but any pleasurable activity serves the purpose of alleviating stress and decluttering our minds to make it easier to truly rest and allow us to cope in challenging times.

For tips on relaxing, [click here](#). And don't forget the [5 Ways to Wellbeing](#). Some of the activities below might also be useful:

### MINDFULNESS

Mindfulness helps us to focus on the present moment and to 'let go' of all the thoughts in our heads that may cause us worry and stress. Admire the beautiful colours of autumn while [taking a mindful walk](#). Being mindful takes practice. Try [combining mindfulness with eating](#). Or you could try a '[loving kindness](#)' meditation with your children.

### CONNECT WITH NATURE

A report published in 2016 showed that taking part in nature-based activities helps wellbeing and reduces levels of anxiety, stress and depression. Enjoy the outdoors by [preparing your garden and wildlife for spring](#). Perhaps you could make some [home-made bird food](#) for the spring months.

### ENJOY THE ARTS

The arts have an important role to play in boosting wellbeing and creating opportunities for social connection, whether this is face-to-face or online. Why not get reading and [join an online book club](#)? Perhaps you are a [budding singer](#) and just need a few tips or [create a scrapbook](#) with your children.

### EXERCISE

There are lots of health benefits associated with exercising including emotional wellbeing. Any kind of exercise is shown to boost mood, improve concentration and generally make us feel better about ourselves. Start your day with a few [strength and flexibility](#) moves and reward yourself afterwards with a [foot massage](#). Or, pick a nice day to go for a walk and fly a [homemade kite](#) with your children.



# COPING DURING LOCKDOWN

This is a really unsettling time for all members of our community but parents/carers may be additionally worried about their child's mental health and emotional wellbeing. If you are concerned about your child, you can receive an initial telephone call to discuss your concerns further, please email your child's Academy, stating **'MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING SUPPORT'** in the subject line.

If you have any other concerns about your child, please contact your child's Academy directly using the following e-mail addresses:

WATH  
ACADEMY

[enquiries@wathacademy.com](mailto:enquiries@wathacademy.com)  
[pastoralteam@wathacademy.com](mailto:pastoralteam@wathacademy.com)  
[safeguarding@wathacademy.com](mailto:safeguarding@wathacademy.com)

MALTBY  
ACADEMY

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[ma-PastoralTeam@maltbyacademy.com](mailto:ma-PastoralTeam@maltbyacademy.com)  
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[info@maltbymanoracademy](mailto:info@maltbymanoracademy)





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IT'S GREAT TO  
**BE BACK TOGETHER!**

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