

17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I want to start by thanking you for your support during what has been a very busy term, which included a day of industrial action. I am grateful to everyone for their hard work in ensuring we were able to keep disruption to a minimum and very pleased with the resilience and maturity students displayed in remaining focused on their learning.

This month marks International Day of Women and Girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). As you will know, science is a particular strength at Rockwood Academy, where in 2021-22 our triple scientists gained results well above the national average. Across the year groups we have spent time this week considering the significance of women in STEM and their contributions.

Away from the classroom, our year 7 students were treated to a performance of Motionhouse: Starchitects at Birmingham Hippodrome – a very enjoyable occasion and a good example of the enrichment and opportunities we aim to give our students.

A particular highlight of the term was our activity to mark Holocaust Memorial through our education programme Echo Eternal. Our students were fortunate to work with poet and spoken word artist Amerah Saleh, and created some wonderful poetry based on the testimony of Mady Gerrard. A number also performed at Birmingham New Street Station – which you may have seen covered on BBC Midlands Today!

Echo Eternal is just one of the ways we demonstrate our CORE values, that underpin everything we do at school. Over the term we have been pleased to reward a number of students for displaying our values and for their good behaviour. These included rewarding 408 students with Amazon vouchers for excellence or demonstrating our CORE values.

It is important students understand our expectations and know how to behave. We have been focusing on this in our assemblies and form time, reminding students of our '10 non-negotiables' – the things we will not allow. And also, to remind them of the things we expect them to do to in order to be ready to learn – for example, arriving to lessons on time and with the correct equipment; listening to the teacher in silence and raising their hands before asking a question. We call this being Ready, Respectful and Safe.

Rockwood ended this half term fundraising to help Syria and Turkey and other local charities, something which we are very proud of. I will of course update parents without total amount raised and showcase student leadership on our twitter platform.

After half term, I will be in touch to tell you more about these programmes, and our work to encourage and sustain good behaviour and excellent attitudes to learning at Rockwood Academy. We believe we can achieve this best in partnership with parents and one area where your support would be appreciated is in punctuality. Please could you ensure your child arrives at school in good time for morning registration at 8.35am. Where this does not happen, students face sanctions which we call corrections, including corrections for repeated lateness.

Following the break, I will also share details of our updated rewards policy – which will continue to include points on ClassCharts but also motivate our students to aim for Rockwood STAR status!

Wishing you and your families an enjoyable half term holiday.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. Cooke', written in a cursive style.

**David Cooke**  
Head of School