Weekly Bulletin 19th October 2026

Mobile Phone Pouches – Starting Wednesday 21 October

A reminder that from **Wednesday 21 October**, TREA will become a **phone-free school**, with all students using secure lockable phone pouches during the school day.

Students will collect a pouch on arrival, place their phone inside and keep the locked pouch with them throughout the day. At the end of the school day, pouches will be unlocked as students leave and will remain in school ready for the following day.

This change is intended to support a **calmer, safer and more focused learning environment**, reducing distraction and helping students to focus fully on their learning and their interactions with one another.

If parents or carers need to contact their child urgently during the school day, they should continue to do so through **Reception**.

If the pouch that you child stores their phone in is damaged during the day we will send you a link to the company where you can pay for a replacement.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your support as we introduce this important change at TREA.

Supporting Learning & Revision at Home

The Year 11 November Mock exams are not far away now. The more prepared your child feels going in, the better. Revision doesn't have to be long or complicated, and you can make a real difference at home, even if you haven't looked at the subject since you were at school yourself.

This week we've included a simple guide to revising with flash cards. Your child writes a question on one side and the answer on the other. Then they test themselves, sort out what they know from what they don't, and keep coming back to the cards over the following days. It works for every subject.

You can help by picking up the cards and asking the questions. You don't need to know the answers, because they're on the back. Even ten minutes a few times a week helps. It also gives you a good sense of how your child is getting on.

If you'd like any more advice on supporting your child's revision, please get in touch with your child's form tutor or subject teachers.

The Revision Mistakes We Want Students to Avoid

Many students spend hours revising but see little improvement because they use techniques that feel productive rather than those that genuinely improve memory and understanding.

Common revision traps:

***Cramming*:** Trying to learn large amounts of information in one sitting places too much strain on short-term memory. Smaller, regular revision sessions are far more effective.

Copying notes: Simply rewriting information from textbooks often leads to students forgetting material as quickly as they write it. Revision should involve actively thinking about and using information.

Highlighting everything: Highlighting can be useful in moderation, but many students end up highlighting entire pages without engaging with the content.

What parents can do:

- Encourage short, regular revision sessions.
- Ask students to explain what they have learned.
- Focus on understanding rather than the amount of work completed.
- Praise consistency over long revision marathons.

HAF spooky fun at half term



We would like to make you aware of a free support service available to families across Staffordshire.

Parenting Support Sessions offer confidential 1:1 advice and guidance in a welcoming environment, giving parents and carers the opportunity to discuss any concerns, learn about available services, and explore further support where needed.

Support is available for a range of areas, including:

- Behaviour
- Family relationships
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Emotional wellbeing
- Family routines
- Housing and financial concerns

Sessions take place on Thursday mornings at various locations across Staffordshire and are free to access.

For more information or to book a session, please visit:

https://www.sctsp.org.uk/community-family-support

We encourage any families who may benefit from this support to take a look.

Parent Governor Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a parent governor on the Local Governing Committee. If you are interested in joining the committee please email the clerk to the governors c-perry@penkvalley.co.uk

Key Dates



Friday 23rd October Staff INSET day (school closed to students)

Monday 2nd November school reopens after half term

Monday 2nd November KS4 APDR starts

Thursday 5th November - Year 11 visit to Wolgarston High School

Wednesday 11th November - Two Minutes Silence