

Dear Parent/Carer

31 March 2022

The academy will finish for the two-week Easter break at normal time, 2.40pm, on Friday 1 April. Students will return on Tuesday 19 April. I understand that on Friday 1 April, there is due to be a release from the Department for Education on the next stage of Covid-19 guidance. I may need to write to parents and carers again, depending on the contents of this new guidance. I believe it will contain information around self-isolation and if work should continue to be set for students self-isolating.

Once again, I thank staff, parents, carers and students for all their hard work and support during this half term. For the first time in three years, we go into the Easter break having had two terms of onsite schooling for all. We have worked hard to ensure lessons have continued in the normal curriculum, even when the Covid-19 cases have started to rise again locally. Across this term, we have had 58 members of staff absent due to testing positive for Covid-19 yet we have continued to offer the full enrichment programme, interventions, Boost and Secure and the full curriculum.

Changes to the Academy Day for Year 9 and Year 11

Every (normal) year, we make slight changes to the academy day to accommodate Year 11 examinations. This does not impact start or finish times, just the time the students have their break and lunch. When we return on Tuesday 19 April, the Year 9 and Year 11 break and lunch times will swap, to support the examinations. The structure of the academy day for term 3 can be found by following this [LINK](#).

Parental Feedback

At the academy, we are committed to ensuring we give our parents an opportunity to provide feedback on all aspects of academy life. We value parental views and want to ensure we use this information to further enhance the quality of education we offer our students. However, we also appreciate that we need to timetable the number of surveys sent each half term. Moving forward, there will be a maximum of one survey sent out each half term, with a clear focus, which will match the student survey topic.

This half term we have been collating feedback on the launch of our new behaviour and achievement platform, Class Charts. Next half term, we will be collecting your views on Behaviour and Attendance systems at the academy, followed by the recently launched rewards strategy in half term 6.

All online surveys will consist of no more than 10 multiple choice questions, with only one asking for further comments or feedback. This will ensure that all surveys are easy to complete. We will also provide an update, on the actions taken as a result of the feedback, in the subsequent Principals' letter to parents. We do appreciate the time it takes to complete these surveys and would like to thank those who have responded to these previously.

Change to Head of Year 11

Mrs Wilson, the current Head of Year 11, will be leaving the academy on Wednesday 27 April. Anyone who knows Mrs Wilson will know that Anglesey is a special place for her and she and her husband have been given the opportunity to relocate there. We are sad to lose her, but are also excited for the next part of her journey. Mr Holme has been filling in as the Head of Year 11 whilst Mrs Wilson has been unwell and this will continue until the Year 11s complete their exams.

Principal: Mr Paul Willerton

Trips Abroad

As Covid-19 restrictions start to ease, we have once again been able to run our trips abroad. Last week, students in Key Stage 3 had the opportunity to visit Andalucía in Spain, as part of a joint Art and Spanish trip. Students visited Seville and Granada, taking part in a range of activities including Flamenco dancing, Paella making and visiting the Museum of Tomorrow. We also have 39 of our Year 13 students flying out to New York on Friday 1 April.

Performances

This term we have been able to run our Dance show and our Sutton Sound music festival. Thank you to all the parents and carers who supported the event. It was fantastic to see the student performing again in front of a live audience!

Literary Canon

The academy is passionate about reading and the impact it has on student's lives. We know that without those basic literacy skills, students will not be able to achieve to their best of their ability or be able to access a number of opportunities available to them in adulthood. With that in mind, our reading provision is designed to give students access to a diverse diet of texts from many cultures representing a variety of cultural and social issues. Our Literacy Canon can be found by following the [LINK](#). This gives details of the books that students will be reading in English and during their Ready to Learn sessions.

Standards (a regular reminder):

I imagine for the majority of parents, the regular standards reminder at the end of each half term seems repetitive. I apologise for this, but unfortunately after each half term break we still have a very small number of students who arrive with the incorrect footwear, hair colour, with fake nails or without equipment.

We firmly believe that students' education should not be hampered by a lack of equipment. Below is a list of equipment that is non-negotiable so that students can access their learning.

- A bag that can at least hold a PE kit, exercise books and equipment. Any bag that can't hold these items is not a suitable school bag.
- Pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener.
- A reading book
- A green pen (provided by the academy)
- A mini whiteboard and pen (provided by the academy)
- PE kit on the days they have PE. Students will be expected to borrow kit if they forget their own.

To ensure that staff can focus on students learning and wellbeing, can we please make sure that students return with the **correct** shoes and uniform. Students are not permitted to wear false nails, nail varnish, fake eye lashes or dye their hair an unnatural colour. Further details can be found on the uniform section of the academy website.

Thank you once again for your support. I hope everyone enjoys the well-earned rest and I look forward to welcoming all students back on Tuesday 19 April.

Yours faithfully



Mr P Willerton
Principal

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