

17 December 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

End of Term Newsletter – December 2021

I hope you and all of your families are well.

As we approach the end of term, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support, kindness and patience over what has been a challenging last few weeks. It is always an incredibly difficult decision to have to partially close our wonderful academy to one or more year groups as a result of high levels of staff absence. We have however, continued as best we can to ensure that students have still been able to access the very lessons that they would have should they have been in school on those days.

The last few weeks have been difficult for the country with the emergence of the new Omicron variant of Covid-19. Please rest assured that we have our finger on the pulse of any and all changes and updates, which may impact on how we are able to operate our school and therefore what that will mean for you as parents/carers and for our amazing students.

Praise

Our use of praise points to recognise the superb work done by students has increased again since my last update in the October half term newsletter Staff have continued to lavish praise on students who have continued to produce excellent work, try hard in lessons, give something new and difficult a go and for those who have been a good member of our academy family by helping others. To date, staff have handed out **78595** praise points since 6 September. That is an increase of **19667** more praise points compared to the same point last year. When broken down, this equates to **1405 more** praise points every week since 6 September.

Uniform and Standards

Overall, over the last half term, I have been very impressed with the vast majority of students' uniform. We have noticed an increase in the number of students trying to wear jewellery, piercings, false nails, false eyelashes and excessive makeup. Please remember that none of the aforementioned are permitted and cannot be worn when crossing the purple line at each gate. Upon our return in January, we will be extra vigilant with ensuring all of the above are removed before crossing the purple line. If students wear any of the above when in school, they will be confiscated and placed in our safe, to be collected by parents/carers.

Please familiarise yourself with the [uniform section](#) of our website.

Breakfast, Break & Lunch

In the October half term newsletter, I detailed how we were resuming our breakfast service for all students on a morning before school. At present, we plan to continue with this when we return in January. If this needs to change as a result of guidance from Public Health or the Government, we will update you. As a reminder of the timings, students will be able to access the dining hall for a free breakfast upon entry to the academy from 07:45am until 08:10am. Students arriving after 08:10am will line up outside. Students will be able to get toast, fruit, cereal and drinks of water for free each day. Students will be able to purchase cartons of juice should they want to.

Students are still able to purchase food and drink items at break time, but will need sufficient funds on their accounts in order to do so.

Covid-19 Lateral Flow Testing

Given the recent increase in cases nationally and the emergence of the Omicron variant, it is now more important than ever that twice weekly testing of students takes place. Please ensure that your child(ren) continues to carry out twice weekly testing over the Christmas break.

Please follow the link [here](https://forms.gle/5VXL8UGkS2eBseHm6) (weblink: <https://forms.gle/5VXL8UGkS2eBseHm6>) to access the Student Covid-19 Test result Form. This form is to be used to report **student Covid-19 test results only** in addition to reporting the result via the NHS website.

January Phased Return

At present, the guidance from the DfE and the Government is that schools across the country are required to host 'mass testing' of students immediately upon return from the Christmas break. In order to facilitate this effectively and safely, we are going to have a phased return for students as follows:

Monday 3 January 2022 - Bank Holiday – Academy closed to students and staff.

Tuesday 4 January 2022 - Only Y7 and Y11 Return

Year 7 students return as normal through gate 1. Those who have consent will be sent for testing.

Year 11 students return at **11:00am** through gate 1 - go straight to their period 3 lesson. Those who have consent will be sent for testing

Year groups 8, 9 and 10 to remain at home and access pre-recorded remote learning via their Google Classroom.

Wednesday 5 January 2022 – Y9 and Y10 Return

Year 9 students return at **9:00am** through gate 1. Those who have consent will be sent for testing.

Year 10 students return at **11:00am** - go straight to their period 3 lesson. Those who have consent will be sent for testing.

Year 7 and **11** in school as normal.

Year 8 to remain at home and access live learning via their **Google Classroom**.

Thursday 6 January 2022 – Y8 Return

Year 8 students return at **9:00am** through the **Cycle Path Gate**. Those who have consent will be sent for testing.

Year 7, 9, 10 and **11** in school as normal

Friday 7 January 2022 –

All year groups in as normal entering through their normal gates.

Staff will be on hand daily at each gate to assist students.

Due to the phased return, Breakfast will return on Friday 7 January 2022 once all year groups are back in.

By Friday, all students must be over the PURPLE line by 8:20am and in their tutor rooms by 8:25am.

As any changes to the above are required due to changes nationally in the guidance over the Christmas period, we will keep you informed.

Final thoughts.....

Take care of yourselves, your families and your friends and have a prosperous and thoroughly enjoyable Christmas break.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Mark Gray
Principal

