

14 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Return to school

I have been delighted to welcome all our students back into the academy and I hope you and your families have had a restful summer break. For our Year 11 students this is an incredibly important year, in terms of their GCSE examinations and ensuring successful outcomes for our students, so they can flourish after school. We kindly thank parents in advance for their ongoing support this year.

Schools in the News

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces are being closed.

We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this issue, as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings and therefore they will continue to function as normal.

We understand that parents may want to understand more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more through the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub at <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/08/31/new-guidance-on-raac-in-education-settings/>

I hope that this offers reassurance.

Year 11 Events

We have a number of events that will be taking place this first term for our Year 11 students to help them prepare for the important year ahead of them. These dates are detailed below for you and I ask for you to save these dates and look forward to seeing you at our events throughout the year.

Date	Event
2-Oct-2023	Parent information evening (all year groups)
24-Oct-2023	Y11 Revision Event 5pm
24-Oct-2023	PSI Handed Out
26th Oct to 5th Nov '23	October Half Term
13th to 24th Nov '23	Year 11 Mock exams

13-Dec-2022	PROGRESS EVENING, including PS2 and Mock Results Handed Out
22nd Dec '22 to 7th Jan '24	Christmas holiday
22nd to 26th Jan '24	MFL Speaking Mocks
30-Jan-2024	"100 Days & Counting" Y11 Evening
6-Feb-2024	PS3 Handed Out
10th to 18th Feb '24	February Half Term
26th to 8th Mar '24	Year 11 Mock exams
19-Mar-2023	PS4 Handed Out
23rd Mar to 7th Apr '24	Easter holiday
8-Apr-2024	Mock Results Assembly
22nd to 26th Apr '24	Geography Paper 3 Mocks
9-May-2024	GCSE Exams Start
21-May-2024	PS5 Handed Out
25th May to 2th Jun '24	May Half Term
26-Jun-2024	Exam Contingency Day (Last day of GCSE exams)
27-Jun-2024	Prom

Year 11 Enrichment

Enrichment sessions continue to run this year, with the following evenings available to support our students. Attendance at enrichment sessions will contribute towards earning the right to attend Prom; further details will follow shortly.

Day	Subject
Monday	English
Tuesday	<i>No sessions due to staff training</i>
Wednesday	History and Geography
Thursday	Maths and Science <i>(X band Maths / Y band Science THIS WEEK, alternating weekly.)</i>
Friday	All other subjects

Passport to Prom

Prom is an opportunity to celebrate the journey our students have made with us over their five years but also as a reward for the difficult task of navigating Y11 and exams. I hope to see as many Y11's join us for prom next year and as such we will be issuing a 'Passport to Prom' to all Y11 students shortly. Passport to Prom supports attendance, praise and attainment to keep their journey through Y11 as focused and as positive as possible.

Free school meals

I would like to draw to the attention of parents/carers the eligibility criteria for accessing free school meals. As we are beginning a new academy year and the cost of living continues to have an impact on all of us, I am aware people who may previously have not been entitled to free school meals may well be.

Not only does applying for free school meals ensure that children get a hot meal at school it also provides additional funding for school so we can better support our students.

Children may be able to receive free school meals if their parent/carer receives at least one of the following:

- Universal Credit – with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- The Guaranteed Element of Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit – provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'Run On'- paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

How to apply?

You need to complete an online application, via Middlesbrough Local Authority, if you are not currently in receipt of free meals but believe that you qualify. The link is below: [Free School Meals Application](#) - you will need to sign up for a Middlesbrough Council account to do so.

Uniform

It was a pleasure to see the return of our students to the academy, with the vast majority of them arriving fully equipped and wearing the correct uniform. As mentioned above at this time of year it may be more difficult to ensure that your child is in full academy uniform. If there are any issues you require support with in ensuring your child is fully equipped for school please liaise with academy staff. However, should you need further support financially please follow the link to our hardship policy application, which can be found [HERE](#). Should there be any queries regarding our uniform policy please follow the link to policy which can be found [HERE](#).

As always thank you for your continuing support of all we do as an academy in our pursuit of supporting all our students to be the best they can be.

Yours Sincerely



Mr Skidmore
Principal