

Monday 25th July 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Firstly, I'd like to start by saying thank you. Since starting with the school in January, I've been really grateful for the support I've received from the students and parents. I can see that we all share the same vision, and that is to ensure that your children get the very best school experience, both inside the classroom and in terms of wider enrichment. Along with preparing students for academic achievements, we've also created some fantastic experiences for children this year: a residential to Kingswood, visits to Alton Towers, history trips to Beamish, photography trips to Whitby and York, a number of university and careers visits as well as putting on our production of Matilda.

We are now moving to the school holidays, a time for the students and the staff to rest and recharge, but before we finish, I wanted to take the opportunity to remind you of some key information so students can start their next academic year as they mean to go on and make the best start possible.

Start of Term Dates

The return to school dates are as follows, please note that there is a staggered start for year groups which means some year groups will start back before others.

Year Group	First day back in School Date
INSET day (training day for staff only: no pupils)	Monday 5th September
Year 7 & Post 16	Tuesday 6th September
All year groups	Wednesday 7th September

The school day

Students should arrive at the school by 8.20am. Students will have 5 lessons every day, along with a tutor period, breaktime and lunchtime. School finishes at 2.30pm. After school sessions and enrichment happens every night apart from Tuesdays, where staff have training. Your child will be given a list of activities and after school lessons they can join.

Mobile Phones and Smart Watches

Mobile phones and smart watches are not to be worn or used in the academy. Both lead to disqualification from exams by exam boards and it is much better to get into the good habit of not having them in school now.

Mobile phones, unfortunately, create safeguarding concerns and can be a conduit to bullying. If a student's phone is seen (and is not turned off in the bottom of their bag) it will be confiscated and parents asked to collect it. We will not return it to the student.

There are sometimes occasions where a student may want to contact a parent. We are very supportive of students who may need to do so. This can be done by asking their learning manager or the student information desk (SID) receptionist. We always try to support students as much as we can and there is no need for students to use their own phone to contact home.

Uniform

I would like to thank you for your support in ensuring students have the appropriate school uniform. Being in the same uniform signals we are all of one mind, and it allows our conversations with students to focus on their learning. Once again, this year we will be providing new uniform for new starters. Trainers should not be worn please and shoes should be plain black with no embellishments. Jewellery is not allowed, to keep a simple message for all. A bag should be brought to school which is large enough to fit A4 exercise books inside, along with their student planner. Their planner will be given to them in September. Here, they will have their timetable and collect their praise stickers for excellent effort in lessons. Students should also carry a water bottle which is able to be filled throughout the day. Uniform reminders can be found on the website and the pupil planners.

Attendance

Attendance at school is incredibly important, particularly after so much time has been lost due to Covid. Every day lost makes it more difficult for your child to catch up, and they really need to aim for being at school every day, unless there is a serious illness. Students experiencing minor illnesses can be supported at school. If you need to report an absence, please contact the school promptly before school starts. Holidays during term time will not be granted: there are 175 days in the school year where children are not at school, and it is expected that holidays and trips be planned during these times.

Summer Holidays

Finally, I would like to wish you a wonderful and safe summer holiday. We look forward to seeing all students returning to us in September refreshed and ready to learn. We have a great term planned with lots of activities, educational visits, a winter showcase and fantastic lessons.

Yours faithfully,



A Crane
Principal