

29 March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Please find below some important messages and information.

Dates for Diary

7th April Academy breaks for Easter – see below

24th April Academy returns from Easter break.

May 1st May Day Bank Holiday

May 26th Academy Half Term

June 8th Year 8 Parent Teacher Conference

July 6th Year 10 Parent Teacher Conference

Year 11

In the midst of all the events mentioned above, the most important is the start of GCSEs for our Y11 students. They have all been working very hard doing extra interventions, twilights, residential and holiday schools to ensure they are well prepared for the final push. The year group should be congratulated on their achievements to date, as we have already received full results in Health and Social Care and some very early higher grade passes in ECDL. Well done everyone and a special well done to our parents who are tirelessly supporting the students at home when we can't be there to supervise their studies – thank you!

Now is not the time to relax, however, and all students should continue with a full revision programme. Easter school arrangements will be sent out by Mrs Taylor.

Smart Watches

There has been a slight change to our policy regarding watches and jewellery. As you are aware, we allow students to wear a watch. However, with the changes in technology we have had to ban all 'Smart' watches. This is because of their ability to access the internet, email and texts – all of which are banned by our Mobile Phone policy. In addition, the Exam Boards are clear in their guidance that these devices are not to be allowed anywhere near an examination room. As all our students are regularly tested and examined and to avoid all issues around malpractice or cheating, we will not allow the students to have data accessible watches in school. Watches – either analogue or digital are allowed and indeed encouraged.

Anti-social behaviour

The Police have made us aware of a number of serious incidents in the community recently; possibly involving our students. Whilst we have no jurisdiction over children once they are out of uniform and in your care, I would make it clear that we will always (as I am sure you would expect) support the Police in any way we can. This has included identifying individuals on CCTV cameras (police or private property/shops) passing on to police any information we receive or supporting the police and Gentoos with acceptable behaviour orders. We would ask you to be vigilant about the behaviour of your children in your neighbourhood. We are aware that the complaints are limited to a small number of families and the behaviour issues in the Academy reflect this pattern. However, poor community behaviour can affect eviction, police orders and ultimately impacts on the reputation of the school that the disaffected students attend. Since opening the Academy we have never had so many meetings with police about a small cohort of students and are very carefully sharing intelligence. What may appear boisterous behaviour now could be the action that prevents a young person from gaining the employment they want in the future!

Attendance

As you are aware we monitor attendance rigorously. I know we have had an issue with a 'stomach bug' and we have been supportive but this seems to be clearing. As such, there will be no leeway granted to students with poor attendance from now on. The Local Authority have access to all our records and will take parents to court. Please do not leave yourselves vulnerable by ensuring your child is in school every day. We also use school trips as a reward for good attendance and therefore anything planned for the supper will only be open to students who can prove regular attendance.

Easter closing

In return for the commitment of Y11 this term Dr Quincey has approved their dismissal first on the afternoon of the 7th April. Times for all year groups below.

Y11	1.45	Dismiss 2.00
Y9 and 10	2.05	Dismiss 2.20
Y7 and 8	2.25	Dismiss 2.40

Mrs V. Preston

Vice Principal