

Our ref: DC/RH

11 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

With half term already upon us, I would like to thank you for your continued support already this year. Once again this term we have enjoyed many successes and achievements. The Proud Podium every Friday has enabled students to showcase their work. It has been an absolute delight to give out Certificates to students reaching milestones in their reading and I hope they find time to relax during the holiday to continue to enjoy losing themselves in a good book.

For Year 11 the Examination Board's clarification about GCSE content will allow us to target lessons, after school interventions and individual support in the most effective manner. With the mock exams approaching after half term, please can I ask that you strongly encourage any Year 11 students to carry out independent work and ensure they take advantage of every opportunity available to attend after school enrichments when we return.

I would ask that you please take a few minutes to remind your children of the following expectations:-

We all believe, as I am sure you do, that our students should be punctual and should arrive before 8.20am, this will help prepare them for arriving on time for work in the future. Students who do not arrive on time will be issued with an appropriate sanction.

We thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends the Academy every day. Now, more than ever, attendance is the key to ensuring students access the focussed lessons we have planned to increase their life chances. Please be mindful that all holidays will be classed as unauthorised absence, if taken during term time. Only in exceptional circumstances will a holiday be authorised. It is our duty to refer to cases to the Local Authority when a student goes on holiday during term time and the Local Authority may well issue a fixed penalty notice to parents and carers. We will, as always, continue to support all students and will meet their individual needs, please contact the Academy to discuss any issues you may have around the attendance of your child.

I would also like to take the opportunity to remind you that uniform standards are very important for the academy and I thank those who support us in ensuring our students look as smart possible. As always though, it is worth remembering the following:-

- Jewellery is not permitted. If students are thinking about having piercings, this must be done at the start of the summer holidays and not during half term, as no student will be allowed to wear earrings (including clear plastic retainers) or any other jewellery when they return.
- Nails and Makeup and False Eyelashes – False eyelashes, false nails and nail polish are not permitted. Makeup may only be worn discretely. If students wear false nails during the holidays, they will be expected to have removed them before they return.
- Our Shoe Policy is clear and is explained in our Academy Planner, shoes must be plain black and free of embellishments. Gold logos, edging and other small splashes of colour are a breach of the policy.
- Socks must be plain black and tights must be at least 40 denier.
- Shirts should be of good quality and long enough to tuck into skirts or trousers as this is a requirement of the uniform policy. The shirt must be plain white and have a stiff collar.
- I write to ask that you please check the length of skirts that girls are wearing to the academy. Skirts should sit just above the knee and should not be modified by rolling up or tying the waistband, this is against the academy rules and will prompt a C4 detention.
- Hairstyles and hair colour must be sensible (check with your child's Learning Manager before considering dramatic changes), bobbles/bands must be black or purple, and should not be worn on wrists when not in use.
- Outdoor coats must be worn over blazers. Please note that hoodies, fur, denim and studded leather jackets are not allowed.
- Mobile phones must be switched off and kept in the bottom of the bag. If a phone is seen or heard then it must be handed over to a member of staff and a C4 detention will be issued. The parent/carer will then have to collect the phone from school.
- Smart watches are not allowed to be worn in the Academy.

I hope that you all have a very enjoyable, relaxing half term break and look forward to welcoming students back promptly on the morning Monday 21st February.

Yours faithfully



Dave Cavill
Principal