



# Armthorpe Academy

*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*

1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## **COVID update**

Thank you to families who have completed and returned NHS Covid vaccination forms to school. Just a reminder that forms need completing even if you do not wish your child to be vaccinated. Please return to school by the 5<sup>th</sup> of October.

## **Year 7 GL Testing**

As discussed last week, Year 7 will be starting GL tests next week. All students have been issued with a timetable today. All the assessments are taken on computers and require the use of headphones. We will provide over-ear headphones; however, if students have their own 3.5mm jack headphones they are welcome to use them. Students may finish some of the assessments before the time allocated. They will need to remain silent during this time. We therefore ask students to bring a reading book to school, so they can sit and read should they finish early to prevent boredom.

## **Year 11**

Following the success of our next steps evening last week, thank you to parents who have supported our Year 11 students in completing college applications. It is fabulous so many students have already applied. We know students are increasing the amount of time they are revising at home; again, thank you for encouraging them to keep the treadmill moving! The next step will be mock exams in November. To help preparation, next week all students will be issued with an exam timetable accompanied with key areas we would recommend revising.

## **Rewards and Non-Uniform**

As you are aware, each half term we hold a different rewards event to recognise students who have made positive behaviour choices and demonstrated our school values in abundance throughout the half term. This half term, on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October, our Sports Hall will be packed with inflatables (assault courses, bouncy castles, giant slides, inflatable board games etc). Each year group has been allocated an hour separately. To receive an entry pass students must be either:

- In the top 50% of their year group based on net points (positive minus negative points).
- In receipt of no negative behaviour points over the course of the half term (this is currently 60% of all our students).

Please note if students have been excluded from school or in isolation for the day for gross defiance, they will not be allowed entry to the event even if they are in the top 50%. This system is set up to ensure the students who constantly meet expectations, adhere to rules, work hard in lessons, attend enrichment clubs, and attend well are rewarded. Students not getting it quite right must learn. All behaviour points are reset to zero each half term so there is a fresh start for everyone.

## **School Shoes**

We are delighted with the support we have received from parents. Our students look incredibly smart; a far cry from when I visited the school prior to starting at Armthorpe when there were trainers, hoodies, earphones, and mobile phones everywhere. Presentation certainly has an impact on mindset and subsequently learning. Thank you for working with us. Sadly, we have a very small minority of students who are still wearing trainers. We have generously given families the month of September to address this. Next weekend, we will be purchasing male and female school shoes in every size from a 3 to 12. Fairness and consistency are everything. If students arrive at school Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October onwards wearing trainers, they will be expected to borrow school shoes. If students refuse, they will be removed from the mainstream lessons and social times. If any families require financial support in the interim, please contact us, we are more than happy to help but we will not be lowering or adjusting our expectations for any student unless there is a medical exemption in place.

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## Y5/6 Open Evening

Our Y5/6 Open Evening is taking place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September. We will be asking students over the coming week to help and support with the event either as a guide or showcasing their skills in departments. To ensure appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place, please complete the form to give consent for your child to attend, but following the link below:

<https://bit.ly/3ur1Gqc>

## Celebrating Success: Consilium Award Winners!

Finally, six of our students will be attending the Hilton in Leeds on Friday night with their families, as they have been nominated for the first ever Consilium Awards. They will be joined by nominees from eight other secondary schools across the trust. The categories are based on the trust's values: Partnership, Equity, Opportunity, People-Centered, Integrity and Excellence. Huge congratulations to Millie C, Sienna P, Olivia L, Nathan G, Jaiden B and Evie R; hopefully next week we will have an overall winner to celebrate!

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards



Claire Robbins  
Headteacher

