



Armthorpe Academy

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

15th October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

A very busy week in the academy and another one to follow ...

COVID Vaccinations

Over half of our students had vaccinations this week. Given some of them were fearful of needles, they demonstrated great resilience, maturity and responsibility. We have been asked by some families if there will be another opportunity. It is my understanding there could possibly be a catch-up programme in schools later in the year, but I would suggest contacting your local health surgery for further advice if your child missed the vaccination due to having had COVID in the last 4 weeks, or is due to turn 12 imminently.

Year 7 Settling-in Evening

Due to a rise in the COVID infection rate in the local community we will still be running our Year 7 Settling-in Evening on Tuesday 19th October, but we do not want families to feel they need to enter the school building unless absolutely necessary. Year 7 have settled extremely well into school life at Armthorpe; we are delighted with the progress they are making both socially and academically. The year group have demonstrated great maturity completing GL tests over the last couple of weeks. We will be using this data to inform teaching groups when we return to school after October half term. You will be informed of any changes in due course. Members of the leadership team will be available for a drop in between 4pm-6pm on Tuesday evening to speak to parents in person should you have any concerns or queries you want to discuss with us. Should you wish to attend please send an email to ARM-enquiries@consilium-at.com briefly explaining the context so we can allocate the right member of staff.

Open Evening

Thank you to all parents who supported us by allowing your child to assist at Open Evening on Thursday. I was humbled by the number of students who wanted to either work with staff in departments or guide families around our school. Your children demonstrated great pride in their school showcasing all we have to offer; a genuine feel of togetherness as a community was lovely to see.

Perimeter Fence

Since I arrived at Armthorpe, I have had concerns about the security of the perimeter fence surrounding the school. The trust has been fantastic, acting quickly, to support us to enhance safeguarding arrangements. On Monday, the first phase of work will begin to erect a taller more secure fence on the Mere Lane side of school. This will provide greater security for both students and staff and will supplement other work being completed later in the academic year.

INSET Day

Just a reminder that Friday 22nd October is a staff training day. We will be doing some work on our reading curriculum and continuing to look at how we evolve the culture of our school. School will finish for students at 2:45pm on Thursday 21st and they will return ready for an 8:30am start on Monday 1st November.

Celebrating Success

Our half term reward, an indoor inflatables party, will take place on Thursday 21st October. Students are aware final reward totals will be published on Monday. If your child has received no negative behaviour points this half term, or, is in the top 50% of their year group based on net points, they will bring home a letter. Please ensure this letter is signed and returned to school, as your child will not be permitted on the inflatables unless we have your consent.

Non-Uniform Day

Thursday 21st October will also be a non-uniform day with a sportswear theme. If your child wishes to participate, they should bring a contribution of £1 which will be collected at the gate. Given we have the inflatables in school, please do not allow your child to wear denim – joggers or leggings will be perfect. Other usual rules apply; no excessive skin or offensive logos please.

We are currently in the process of selecting our school charity for the year. The funds raised from this non-uniform day will be used to help and support two charities very close to one of our community's hearts. Sadly, some of you may be aware that Jacob Gratton (one of our ex-students) sadly passed away earlier this month. I didn't know Jacob myself, but I have heard many wonderful stories about what a fabulous young man he was. Jacob was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy from a very young age, but despite the challenges this brought, he flourished in his young life enjoying his time at Armthorpe and always demonstrating our school values in abundance. He was the epitome of resilience, one of our five school values. Later this year at our annual awards ceremony, we will be honouring Jacob and his family with a resilience award in his name. In the meantime, with the blessing of his family, we would like to donate the money raised from this half term's non-uniform day to support two charities that have supported Jacob and his family: Dogs For Good and Wish Upon a Star.

Again, with the blessing of Jacob's family, I will leave you with a picture of a fantastic young man sadly no longer with us. Just a reminder to us all to ensure we express to our loved ones exactly what they mean to us; I will certainly be giving my husband and daughter an extra-long hug this evening and reminding them how much I love them.



Have a lovely weekend!

Kind regards

Claire Robbins
Headteacher