



Armthorpe Academy

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

27th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As discussed in the email I sent yesterday, we have an increasing number of staff and students sadly absent from school with COVID. There is no trend or pattern. Whilst it is obviously frustrating that we will need to continue with remote learning next week, it is also concerning for our community that the virus is spreading so rapidly once again, and indeed that many staff and students have been confined to bed in recent days. The major difference at present to previously is that there are no national restrictions in place. Whilst we cannot enforce the wearing of face coverings, we are recommending that face coverings are always worn in school whilst transmission rates of the new variant are so high. Please speak to your child about the importance of protecting one another and indeed about the importance of not making physical contact with their peers. As mentioned previously, frequent lateral flow testing is also crucial. If your child requires additional test kits, they are available to collect from the main canteen daily at lunch time.

Much thought has been applied to the timetable below to try to ensure school can function as effectively as possible for all students. Whilst also factoring in academic studies, flu vaccinations are also taking place this week.

The timetable below will operate for **Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.**

Day	Year Group Remote Learning from Home	Year Groups Learning in School	Other Information
Monday 29 th November	8 and 10	7 and 9	Year 7 to receive timetables with new sets Period 1 in the canteen
Tuesday 30 th November	7 and 9	8 and 10	
Wednesday 1 st December	8 and 10	7 and 9	School nursing team in school; flu vaccinations for students with consent in Years 7 and 9
Thursday 2 nd December	7 and 9	8 and 10	School nursing team in school; flu vaccinations for students with consent in Years 8 and 10
Friday 3 rd December	8 and 10	7 and 9	

Year 11

We will be using the week to help Year 11 with 'open' basket option subjects. Many students have 'real' examinations in January or need to spend time preparing for practical examinations. As such, we are trying to make the most of a challenging situation by providing the students with time to focus on option subjects, something I know that from speaking to the students has been concerning them. Year 11 should only come into school on the focus days for subjects they study. The timetable has been carefully planned to avoid cross over where possible. The remainder of the time, remote learning tasks will be set for core subjects online.

Year 11 Option Subject Focus Days		
Day	Option	Option
Monday 29 th November	Health and Social Care	Performing Arts
Tuesday 30 th November	Hospitality and Catering (Group 1 – 11B) Two course food prep.	
Wednesday 1 st December	Art Session 1	Business Studies
Thursday 2 nd December	Hospitality and Catering (Group 2 – 11D) two course food prep.	
Friday 3 rd December	Art Session 2	Sports Science/Sports Studies (P1-P4)

Please be mindful that some of the staff isolating at home are feeling very rough! We will be working as a team to ensure work is uploaded for all students to complete remotely. Where possible there will be a member of staff online, however, this may not always be possible.

Finally, I enclose with this week's newsletter a follow-up letter sent from the school nursing team. Approximately 50% of our students were vaccinated in school the first time round, if you have changed your mind and would like your child to have a COVID vaccination, details are enclosed.

I appreciate the last three weeks have been far from ideal; we are still facing challenging circumstances, but we are not alone. I can assure you that we are doing everything we can to keep as many children in the school building as possible, but the health and safety of our school community will always come first. Thank you for your continued support and understanding. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards



Claire Robbins
Headteacher

