



Armthorpe Academy

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

2nd December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Given the challenging circumstances we are currently facing as a community, I wanted to write to you as early as possible with plans for next week. In conjunction with the increase in national statistics, COVID infection rates have continued to rise throughout the course of this week. At the time of writing, 55 students are absent from school with COVID; several more members of staff have tested positive. As a trust, we have been in constant communication this week with the local Public Health team; we will continue to follow their advice and guidance.

- We expect all stakeholders to wear face coverings when inside the school building; our expectations go beyond national guidance which is to wear coverings in communal areas. If students are exempt, they should wear a green lanyard provided by school.
- Classroom doors and windows are open where possible to aid ventilation. Students are permitted to wear coats in classrooms as an interim measure.
- All staff are testing using lateral flow tests daily. Students should test at least twice a week, and, as and when necessary when they have been exposed to 'high risk situations' (such as crowded venues or exposure to clinically vulnerable people). Please help keep our community safe by ensuring your child tests regularly. The new lateral flow test kits have been extremely accurate thus far; all lateral flow cases (many for asymptomatic people) have subsequently resulted in positive PCR results. Kits can be collected from the school canteen each day.

Unfortunately, staffing levels mean we will need to continue with a blended learning offer next week. Although this is not ideal, there are always positives to arise from challenging situations. The Year 11 drop down days this week have enabled our students to produce some fabulous coursework, which will contribute to final GCSE marks. We will be emulating this program with Year 10 this week to enable practical work that is more difficult to complete at home to be caught up on through targeted sessions.

Year 10 should only come into school for practical option subjects they study at the following times. Remote learning will be set for students not in school as per timetable. Please note class codes for some subjects with more than one group; codes can be found on student timetables in planners.

Year 10 Option Subject Focus Days 8:30am – 13:20 (Period 1-4)		
Day	Option	Option
Monday 6 th December	Photography – 10B	Sports Science Exam preparation for January
Tuesday 7 th December	Art (both groups)	
Wednesday 8 th December	Photography – 10C	
Thursday 9 th December	Hospitality and Catering – 10B Two course food preparation	Mr Petrie has spoken to students (Chicken dish and dessert)
Friday 10 th December	Hospitality and Catering – 10C Two course food preparation	Mr Petrie has spoken to students (Chicken dish and dessert)

Provision for **Years 7, 8, 9 and 11** next week is detailed below. Having spoken to our students this week, they tell me they prefer remote learning to be ‘chunked’ to enable them to establish better routines. We have therefore adapted provision accordingly based on their feedback. Just a reminder that students should be following their daily timetable at school and new Consilium email addresses (not Armthorpe addresses) should be used to access Teams. As an example this will be ARMjohn.smith@consilium-at.com. If your child is struggling to log on, then please contact us.

The timetable below will operate for **Years 7, 8, 9 and 11**

Day	Year Group Remote Learning from Home	Year Groups Learning in School	Progress exams for KS3 assessment window
Monday 6 th December	8 and 9	7 and 11	
Tuesday 7 th December	8 and 9	7 and 11	
Wednesday 8 th December	8 and 9	7 and 11	Year 7 Maths exam in the Sports Hall
Thursday 9 th December	7	8, 9 and 11	Year 9 English and Maths exams in the Sports Hall. Students have been preparing in lessons this week.
Friday 10 th December	7	8, 9 and 11	Year 8 Maths exam in the Sports Hall

The timetable has been planned based on staff absence and isolation dates at present. If there is a further influx of cases over the weekend then we will need to reassess, but provision has been planned to try to safely accommodate as many students in the school building as possible.

Please be vigilant and do not send your child to school if they show any signs of key symptoms: a high temperature, a new continuous cough, a loss or change to the sense of taste or smell.

Finally, you may have seen in the news this week that on our return to school in January (after the Christmas break), on-site lateral flow tests must be offered to all secondary school students and results registered with the NHS. **If you consented to testing in September or brought your child onto site for a test, we will assume you are happy to consent again. A sticker will be placed in your child’s planner next week to indicate the current consent status that we hold for your child. If you wish to change the status, please email Mrs Whiteley, Business Support Officer (Alison.whiteley@consilium-at.com) by Friday 10th December.**

Thank you in anticipation for your collaboration and understanding. Take care.

Kind regards



Claire Robbins
Headteacher

