



Armthorpe Academy

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

9th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We reach the final week of a challenging but successful half term. I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you for your support, patience, understanding and collaboration during what has been a difficult time. COVID continues to cause far more disruption than we would like, but as a community given the circumstances, we have managed to provide the best quality of education possible whilst most importantly retaining the health and well-being of our school family.

Next week continues to present staffing challenges; in addition to new infections, several staff who contracted the virus 10 days ago are now sadly suffering with COVID pneumonia. 12% of the student body are currently infected and isolating at home. I have spoken with medical professionals at Public Health once again this morning, who have confirmed we are implementing appropriate and sensible measures. Public Health have advised that there is nothing else we can do at present other than continue with the steps currently in place.

This means next week, provision for students will be as detailed below.

Date	Learning in School	Remote Learning at Home
Monday 13 th December	Year 11 and Year 10	Years 7, 8 and 9
Tuesday 14 th December	Year 11 and Year 9	Years 7, 8 and 10
Wednesday 15 th December	Year 11 and Year 8	Years 7, 9 and 10
Thursday 16 th December	Year 11 and Year 7	Years 8, 9 and 10
Friday 17 th December	Year 11 and Year 10	Years 7, 8 and 9

This approach allows us to see all students in school before the Christmas break in a safe and controlled manner. To safeguard everyone, we will not be teaching students together in large groups in communal areas, as this simply multiplies risk to everyone.

If more staff return to school than we anticipate and there are no further infections, then I will contact you to bring an additional year group into school each day. A text message will be sent before 6pm every day next week to confirm arrangements.

Vouchers this week have been ordered for over the Christmas holidays for students who access free school meals. Vouchers will be sent directly to parent/carers. Should Year 7-10 families require any support next week due to children not being in school, please contact Mrs Whiteley (alison.whiteley@consilium-at.com) and we will arrange for either a food parcel or a daily grab bag for collection to be made each day.

As I have previously informed you, government guidance when we return to school in January stipulates **one on-site lateral flow test must be offered to all secondary school students and results registered with the NHS**. Given the safest scenario is for students to wait in a socially distanced environment until tests have been processed, we will be initiating a slightly phased return to enable tests to be conducted efficiently, but more importantly, so any students testing positive can be isolated from their peers until parental contact is made.

We can accommodate 60 socially distanced desks in the Sports Hall, so year groups have been split in half. The table below details testing times. **Students should arrive at school in full uniform and use the entrance by**

the side of the Sports Hall. Any students not testing should arrive at the same time. They will be allocated a space to sit in the Sports Hall, so once testing has been completed, they can return to lessons with their peers.

On-site Lateral Flow Testing January 2022			
Date	Year Group	Student Surname	Time
Tuesday 4 th January	Year 11	A – K	8:30 am
		L - Z	9:30 am
	Year 10	A – L	10:30 am
		M - Z	11:30 am
	Year 9	A – L	1:00 pm
		M - Z	2:00 pm
Wednesday 5 th January	Year 7	A – I	8:30 am
		J - Z	9:30 am
	Year 8	A – K	10:30 am
		L - Z	11:30 am

Experience informs me, that previous updates to government recommendations/guidance are generally released during the school holiday period. Should anything change between now and our return to school, I will write to inform you during the break. Please keep an eye on your emails ...

Finally, I hope you manage to have a restful and enjoyable break over the festive period with friends and family. On behalf of the Trust, staff and the Board of Governors, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to continuing to work pro-actively with you in 2022!

Thank you once again for your continued support. Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards



Claire Robbins
Headteacher