



# Armthorpe Academy

*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*

10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Return to School – COVID update**

Our learners were fabulous last week showing great maturity and responsibility executing COVID tests on their return to school. Encouragingly, only one student tested positive, which suggests our community are testing and isolating with responsibility. Thank you. That said, the pattern in school this week demonstrates how important a minimum of twice weekly testing is, as several students who were negative on Monday or Tuesday tested positive later in the week. All students were given lateral flow tests kits last week, so just a reminder to encourage your child to test on a Sunday and Tuesday evening even if they are feeling fine. Whole school attendance last week was just below 90%, the highest it has been since mid-November, so hopefully we can continue to maintain a safe upward trajectory.

## **Face Coverings**

I spoke to our learners last week about the importance of wearing face coverings in school as a medium of protecting transmission through the air. We are still distributing a lot of face coverings daily. Please remind your child of the importance of wearing the covering responsibly and thank you to those of you who are already encourage safe practice.

## **Uniform**

As is standard after the Christmas holidays, the standard of uniform always diminishes, as girls especially push boundaries with uniform rules following Christmas gifts. Pleasingly, we had very few issues with trainers or hoodies last week. Thank you for your support. As per our published policy since September (available in the planner), this week will be clamping down on **jewellery** (particularly rings and non-clear nose studs) and **nails** (predominantly long acrylic nails that are not suitable for school). We have generously given students a week's grace. They will all be informed on Monday that as of Tuesday, we will be confiscating items, so appropriate choices need to be made. Rather than removing students from lessons continuing to defy uniform rules (hence impacting on learning), social time will be removed until appropriate choices are made. All confiscated items will be returned at the end of the school day, if students refuse to remove and attend detentions at social times, then this then becomes an issue of gross defiance and not uniform that will be dealt with separately. We expect students to make correct choices. Thank you in anticipation for your support.

## **Parents' Evenings**

Given the current national restrictions in place it would be misguided and irresponsibility to meet face to face at present. That said, so much more is gained from face to face than remote meetings. We will see what the next evaluation brings on January 26<sup>th</sup>; we have provisional dates in place for February and March. If guidance remains the same, then we will bite the bullet and arrange remote meetings. If you have any pressing concerns in the interim, please do not hesitate to email your child's Head of Year in the first instance.

## **School Meals**

To comply with Healthy Schools recommendations and Natasha's Law (a mandatory requirement to ensure a full list of ingredients, including allergen information, is clearly identifiable on food served), we have made some much-needed changes to our catering offer. Contrary to inaccurate posts on social media, we are not just serving vegetarian food, but rather a more healthy and balanced food offering each day, which will continue to evolve and develop as COVID restrictions can be removed. We all know that a balanced diet, as well as a minimum of eight hours regular sleep has a significant impact on a child's ability to learn. The new menu reduces the amount of sugary produce available in school

whilst also limiting fried food to just a Friday. This week's menu is detailed overleaf. Just a reminder that if your child is bringing their own drinks into school, they must be soft drinks, fizzy drinks will be confiscated until the end of the school day. Students can drink in lessons, but this must be water. Water fountains are available for all students to use in school to refill bottles at break and lunch time should they wish (please note bottles cannot be refilled during lesson time).

As part of the free school meal allowance, **students accessing free school meals** can now have **either two slices of toast or a slice of cheese on toast at break. At lunch, the allowance includes a main meal/snack/sandwich, cookie/fruit/pudding and a bottle of water.** Any other produce will need to be paid for.

#### Food Menu – Week Beginning 10.01.22

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Main meal</b>	Sausage and Lentil Casserole (Wheat sulphates)	Chicken and Sweet Potato Curry and Rice (Milk)	Toad in the Hole (Wheat, egg, milk sulphates)	Cottage Pie and Vegetables	Chicken Nuggets and Chips
<b>Meat free main meal</b>	Leek and Potato Soup (Wheat)	Buttermilk Quorn Wrap (Wheat/Sesame)	Shepherd-less Pie (Soya)	Vegetable Curry and Rice (Milk)	Vegetable Nuggets and Chips
<b>Snacks</b>	Chicken Burger in a Bun	Tex Mex Burrito (Wheat milk)	All Day Breakfast Panini (Wheat, egg, milk sulphates)	Boston Beans on Toast (Wheat/Soya sulphates)	Fishfinger Sandwich
	Jacket Potato with one filling	Jacket Potato with one filling	Jacket Potato with one filling	Jacket Potato with one filling	Jacket Potato with one filling
	Selection of sandwiches/wraps	Selection of sandwiches/wraps	Selection of sandwiches/wraps	Selection of sandwiches/wraps	Selection of sandwiches/wraps
<b>Puddings</b>	Jam Sponge and Custard (Wheat/Milk)	Date and Oat Slice (Oats/Wheat)	Banana Bread (Wheat/Eggs)	Mixed Fruit Sponge and Custard (Milk/Wheat)	Pear and Chocolate Sponge and Custard
	Fruit	Fruit	Fruit	Fruit	Fruit
	Cookie	Cookie	Cookie	Cookie	Cookie

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards



Claire Robbins  
Headteacher