

Community Bulletin - 10th July 2022

Working Together to Improve Standards and Share Success

Safeguarding/Health and Safety Update

All students have been informed in assemblies this week about security locks that have now been placed on external doors in South Block. Following the erection of a perimeter fence earlier this year, this is another measure to improve the security and safety of our site. In the event of a fire alarm, as with all other security doors the locks release automatically. All staff also have a fob to release the lock.

Each half term, as a school we practice fire evacuation procedures. Our procedures were recently witnessed by a Health and Safety Fire expert who commented:

"I want to commend the staff at Armthorpe for the professional and organised response to the activation and the pupils, who mustered with minimal fuss or encouragement and impeccable behaviour, standing in complete silence whilst the activation was investigated. This is rarely observed when carrying out fire drills and has set a new standard that we will refer to in all future visits to educational premises."

This week, we will be informing all staff and students about lockdown procedures and processes that need to be followed if the need arises for an evacuation. We have been waiting for the security locks to be fitted before making this 'real'. We would hope the need for a lockdown would never arise, but should it be the case to safeguard our school community we will be practising with the students in the final week of term, and then again, each half term during the next academic year. If you feel this may create anxiety for your child in any way, please contact Miss Longhorn (lucy.longhorn@consilium-at.com), Deputy SENCO, to enable us to work with you to support your child.

Punctuality to school and lessons

A by-product of the security locks is that it has enabled us to have a real push on punctuality to school and lessons. This will continue in September, but we have started now so students are clear of our expectations. Lateness in the workplace is not tolerated; lateness in school will not be accepted either. The security locks close automatically 5 minutes after the start of each lesson. It is possible to walk the whole school in 5 minutes, therefore if students move from one classroom to another without lingering or waiting for others in a timely manner, they have plenty of time. We have already seen lateness to lessons improve by 48% this week as a result – this is a positive step and one on which we will continue to build to improve the quality of education.

Year 10 New College Visit

Year 10 are visiting Doncaster New College on Monday as part of their careers programme to help them make informed choices about post-16 study. Students will be experiencing taster lessons in areas of interest to them. To make the experience 'real', Year 10 can come to school in non-uniform on Monday. The forecast is warm, so just a reminder there should be no inappropriate slogans on T-shirts, low cut tops or midriff on display. Students will be having an early brunch at school, leaving at approximately 11am and returning by the end of the school day. Any questions, please contact Mr Petrie, the trip leader.

Blazers

The weather for our final fortnight at school is predicted to be warm. **Blazers can be left at home for the remaining two weeks but should not be replaced by hoodies or coats.** Any hoodies or coats will be confiscated at the gate for students to collect at the end of the day.

A great experience was enjoyed by all



We were fortunate enough on Wednesday evening to take a group of students to Old Trafford to see the opening game of the Women's European Football Championship. Over 68,000 people, a record for a female football game, were in the crowd to see England win Austria 1-0. It was a fantastic experience for our students to be part of a record-breaking evening. The atmosphere in the ground was electric. Many of our students enjoyed singing along to the national anthem and chanting encouraging songs throughout the evening. Hopefully, there will be many more opportunities such as this in the academic year ahead.

Consilium Award Winners

Last year, the first inaugural Consilium Awards were held with many of our staff and students attending. This year, the event will be taking place at Elland Road. The following students have won our school award this year and will now be nominated for the trust award (a winner from across all 9 of the trust's schools). Mrs Robbins spoke with some proud and emotional parents on Friday. Rightly so, to win a school award is a phenomenal achievement and one of which we should all be extremely proud of. Further details to follow of the fabulous work of our students, but for now, well done to all!

Trust Value	Armthorpe Winner
Partnership	Lucas J – Year 7
Equity	Maja D – Year 7
Opportunity	Liam G – Year 11
People Centred	Gabriel T – Year 9
Integrity	Matthew T – Year 10
Excellence	Luka T – Year 9

The Year 11 Prom

It's been a busy couple of weeks. We also said goodbye to our Year 11 students with a fantastic Prom held at Castle Park. Pictures of the event will be on the screen in the canteen over the next couple of weeks for our younger students to enjoy and aspire to.

There will be an evening for current Year 10 parents in early September which will explain the 'Year 11 passport to the prom', in addition to informing you about the key role you must play in the year ahead.

The majority of Year 10 have applied themselves well during their first full mock series over the last 10 days. It has been a shock to many of them, but a positive shock in terms of realising just how much they need to know and remember. Staff are currently marking papers and results will be published in the last week of term. We are confident the year group are maturing and will come back in September ready to hit the ground running to maximise their potential over the year ahead.



Whilst there are some fabulous achievements happening within the school building, sadly some of the behaviour choices being made by our young people beyond the school gates are causing concerns amongst residents and businesses in the community. With the Summer holidays approaching, it is essential we work together.

Shoplifting in the Community

Sadly, we have been contacted by B&M on a couple of occasions over the last week regarding students shoplifting in the community on an evening. As you are aware, we are keen to work with you as parents and the community in general to ensure we educate our young people with the skills and behaviours to flourish in today's society. Two of our school values are responsibility and respect, key life skills. We will be working with B&M, and the police if repeat incidences occur, to support businesses in the local community. It is essential our young people understand and comply with the rule of law, therefore as such, if your child is identified through CCTV footage, we will be contacting you in due course to work with us to prevent repeat incidents. We expect and appreciate your support.

Vaping in the Community

Vaping is not a sudden trend isolated to Armthorpe, but sadly a trend currently sweeping the nation. The most dangerous aspect of vaping is that as yet, the extent of the side effects to health are unclear. Over recent weeks however, there has been an increase in young people experiencing nose bleeds and feeling faint. Vaping has serious health implications. It is known that exposure to chemicals and nicotine in vapes during teenage years can harm brain development, impact on learning and attention and significantly increase future addiction to other drugs.

We know from conversations with young people that many of them share vapes. We know that many of them vape for social reasons. We know that many vape outside school with friends and as parents you may not be aware. Staff often see students vaping on the streets as we leave school on an evening. Any vapes used or seen in school are confiscated and parents contacted. We would encourage you to remain vigilant. Check bags, coats and potential hiding places in bedrooms. We would encourage you to work with us by reducing the number of young people that are vaping for their own health. If you are aware your child vapes and allow this at home, then we ask you to support us by ensuring vapes are not brought into school to use on the way home. It is illegal to vape under the age of 18.

We will be speaking to all our students before the holidays to remind them about dangers in the community over the holidays, such as open water swimming, fire risks in hot weather and the dangers of vaping. Please support us by having conversations at home too.

