

Armthorpe Academy



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Our Ref: CRO/DMC

19th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

A very productive week once again in the Academy with some fantastic learning taking place. We are delighted with the attitude and behaviour of the vast majority of our students. We thank you too as parents for supporting us to raise the bar with expectations; our work together is proving very fruitful and will certainly help your child to maximise their potential.

Lateral Flow Testing

After an intense two week period of testing two year groups a day, all students who consented have now completed three lateral flow tests at school. Your child has been given two boxes (with their name on) of self-testing kits to use at home between now and the end of the Easter holidays. The six tests are for your child and we would advise you test on a Sunday evening before returning to school after the weekend, and midweek on a Wednesday. Instructions are included in the packs; also attached to the reverse of this week's newsletter is a simple guide to follow. Our students have already completed all but the final phase (of adding the drops) independently, so we do not anticipate any problems replicating this at home; they have shown great responsibility. However, should your child need support from staff at school, there are still a small number of testing slots available. Please contact Mrs Whiteley (alison.whiteley@armthorpeacademy.org) should you require our support. To help monitor the national picture and keep our school community safe, the government have requested that all tests completed are recorded. To enable us to keep a record and make the process as easy as possible, we have created a simple online form for you to complete, which can be accessed through the COVID link on our website, or by following this link: <https://bit.ly/3vv6Lhr>. We would encourage you to use the kits provided to help provide peace of mind for all our community; the tests do help to identify anyone who is asymptomatic.

Year 9 Options Evening

We are running three sessions next week to enable us to meet face to face with families of Year 9 students to pick appropriate GCSE option choices. Thank you to parents who have already booked a slot, if you haven't, please contact the office as soon as possible. Appointment times have been emailed to those of you who have responded, if you have not received an email please call the school. Just a reminder to discuss preferred options with your child prior to the evening as this will improve the quality of conversations.

Year 11 GCSE Grades

We now know that Teacher Assessed Grades will be used to award Year 11 final GCSE grades. I will be speaking to the year group next week to provide them with more specific details, but in summary the seven school weeks between now and May half term will be used to build as much evidence as possible of the level that individual students are working at in each subject. There will be no mock exams. Our focus will be on teaching the students well to ensure that any misconceptions in knowledge are addressed and students are equipped with the knowledge and skills required to progress to the next stage of their education. The attitude of Year 11 has been fantastic; however, attendance has been sporadic. We need to work together to maximise the time we have left with the students, so please ensure your child is attending daily.



Headteacher: Mrs Claire Robbins

Inside everyone there is a rainbow waiting to shine.

Ambition

Pride

Resilience

Respect

Responsibility



Laptops and Chrome Books

We would like to remind you that any IT equipment loaned to your child during the lockdown period should be returned to school as soon as possible and no later than Friday 26th March.

Parental Communication with Staff

We actively encourage and appreciate open, honest and positive relationships between home and school; this enables our young people to thrive academically, socially and emotionally. It is important to realise however that during the day, our staff have very little time to read and respond to emails or make phone calls. Teachers are in classrooms teaching, the pastoral team are supporting students in and around school and the leadership team are constantly out and about monitoring and developing the quality of education in the school. We have had a number of calls this week demanding an immediate response or parents/carers arriving at school without an appointment. We will be sharing a communications policy and a new home/school agreement before the start of the new academic year. In the meantime, we kindly request that unless it is an emergency, you contact school to arrange a mutually convenient appointment with the appropriate member of staff before entering the school building. Likewise, staff will endeavor to reply to all phone calls and emails as soon as possible, but a 48 hour period should be left before contacting school again. Rest assured if there is a safeguarding or emergency issue at school, we will contact you immediately. Thank you in anticipation for your understanding and support.

Have a lovely weekend!

Yours sincerely



Claire Robbins
Headteacher