

Armthorpe Academy



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Our Ref: CRO/DMC

5th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Not long now! We are delighted our students will be back in school with us next week; we have missed them! No new information in this week's newsletter, just a reminder of the key points prior to next week's return.

Staggered return to school

The table below contains details of the return date for each year group, the gate they need to use to enter and exit the building and the areas that have been allocated to their respective year group in school.

Year	Day of Return	Entry Gate	Meeting point from 8:10am	Indoor Space	Outdoor Space
10	Monday	Student Entrance	PA Hall	Canteen (B/L 2)	Astroturf
11	Tuesday	Main entrance (shop)	Studio	Studio (B/L 1)	Astroturf
7	Wednesday	Main entrance (shop)	Main Canteen	Canteen (B/L 1)	Playground
8	Thursday	Sports Centre	Technology	Technology (B/L 2)	Netball Courts
9	Friday	Sports Centre	South Block Hall	Technology (B/L 1)	Playground

On the first day of return, all students who have consented to testing should arrive at school at the time of their allocated slot and follow the signs at the front of reception to the testing venue (the Sports Hall). There will be staff everywhere to meet and greet to welcome our students back on site and ease any anxieties.

Students who are not being tested should use the appropriate year group gate and assemble in the allocated meeting point for their year group in time for the start of the day at 8:30am.

Please note to help manage COVID regulations, students will not be permitted on the school site until 8:10am when the Academy will be fully staffed.

Uniform

Students should arrive in full school uniform; PE kit is no longer being worn to school. This means we expect to see students in a white shirt, blazer and tie. Hoodies are not to be worn underneath blazers. If students are wearing a coat, then a blazer must be worn underneath. We appreciate some students may have grown significantly since they were last in school, and as such, may have outgrown uniform. If this is the case and you have been unable to replace due to COVID restrictions or a loss of earnings due to the pandemic, please contact us and we will discuss how we can support you as a school. To clarify any misconceptions, the current uniform policy states students should wear black polishable shoes – this means fabric trainers or trainers with large logos are not school uniform. As stated previously, school shoes will be necessary from September, therefore if you are purchasing new footwear, it would make sense to buy shoes rather than trainers.



Headteacher: Mrs Claire Robbins

Inside everyone there is a rainbow waiting to shine.

Ambition Pride Resilience Respect Responsibility



All students will be expected to participate in PE, unless there is a medical exemption. Now more than ever, students need to feel the benefits that physical activity brings.

There will be no 'blue summer polo shirt' previously worn after Easter. Normal uniform rules will apply moving forwards. Should we have a hot summer, we will re-assess and communicate as appropriate the need to wear a blazer as a compulsory item of uniform during Half Term 6.

Mobile Phones

The use of mobile phones and ear phones/ear buds will not be permitted on the school site. Students can keep mobile phones turned off in bags or blazer pockets to use on commute, but sight of mobile phones and/or ear phones in school will result in consequences being applied. There are several reasons for this policy change, but fundamentally, the problems associated with mobile phones in school far outweigh the benefits. They can be a trigger for bullying, miscommunication, unwanted and unnecessary illegal pictures. If students are pre-occupied by phones in lessons they detract from our core purpose of teaching and learning. Finally, even if used sensibly at social times, they seriously diminish social interaction at a time when it is imperative our young people talk to and engage with one another rather than technology.

Expectations

We are excited at the prospect of all our students returning to school next week; young people need to be in school to help them learn and develop academically, socially and emotionally. We are aware there will be some anxieties about returning to school, therefore our core purpose will be to ensure our learners feel safe in school, to teach them well and to establish basic expectations around our first core value of respect.

At Armthorpe respect is:

- Being a leader: Doing the right thing when no-one is watching (both inside and outside of school).
- Executing the basics: Smiling, saying please/thank you, opening doors and treating others how we would want to be treated ourselves.
- Following and accepting rules without argument. At present this particularly means following COVID rules to protect our school family and abiding by the rules of the classroom which will be explained to all students on their return.

We are starting with respect because manners and compliance cost nothing but mean so much. I'm sure you'll agree that respect must be something that is the norm in our community.

Should you have any questions or queries regarding any of the content of this week's newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Claire Robbins
Headteacher