

Armthorpe Academy



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Our Ref: CRO/DMC

12th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

What a fantastic week with all of our students finally back in the Academy where they belong! It has been wonderful to see so many happy faces this week, as staff and students have enjoyed being reunited face to face to enable 'proper' teaching and learning to resume once again.

Lateral Flow Testing

Given the current COVID government guidelines, our school community has felt as safe as possible this week. A heartfelt thank you to you as parents for allowing your child/children to participate in the lateral flow testing programme; just over 90% of our school community have consented to testing. We are proud of the students this week; they have demonstrated great responsibility and maturity undertaking lateral flow tests. As I write, all tests for both staff and students have been negative, which provides reassurance for us all as a community. Following the initial test, the students will have two more tests at school between now and next Friday. After this time, all students will be provided with a self-testing kit to enable them to test at home twice a week. Kits will be distributed to all students next Friday (19th March 2021) with instructions as to how to use. We do not anticipate any problems as our young people have independently followed the process with diligence and great success this week, we would just encourage you to continue testing at home as a family to help protect our school community.

Student Planners

All students have been issued with a planner this week. The planners are to help us improve daily communication in terms of students' behaviour for learning choices on a daily basis. Our behaviour system is set up first and foremost to catch students being good! Three credits for each lesson have already been awarded assuming your child will meet our expectations, therefore if there are no staff signatures to cancel out your child's credits, this is positive. Additional credits are awarded each lesson for students who demonstrate our school values along with stamps from the leadership team for students excelling in lessons, or showing respect and responsibility in other aspects of academy life. If students do not make appropriate choices, there are consequences. The learning of others will not be disrupted by students unwilling to co-operate, meet our expectations or follow reasonable instructions. Each year group has had an assembly this week; students understand the new systems in place and have responded very positively. The academy has been calm and orderly this week and there has been some fantastic learning taking place. Our young people will thrive at Armthorpe if we continue to work together.

The planners have different coloured dots. The system has been explained to students, but in case the message has been confused in translation, the dots refer to emergency evacuation procedures should they be necessary. The information you provided before we returned to school has been used to allocate assembly groups. A blue dot means you consented for your child to walk home independently, a red dot means they must wait and walk with siblings and a green dot means they must wait to be collected from the academy. The dots are to assist us with assembly points and dismissal arrangements should the need ever arise.



Headteacher: Mrs Claire Robbins

Inside everyone there is a rainbow waiting to shine.

Ambition

Pride

Resilience

Respect

Responsibility



Mobile Phones

Students have adapted well to new expectations this week. It has been lovely to see them socially interacting with each other at break and lunch time rather than sitting staring at screens. Just a reminder that the policy is that mobile phones should not be seen on the school site regardless of the time of day. This means phones need to be switched off and in bags or pockets before entry at the gate and until departure through the gate on an evening.

PE Kit

Just a reminder if students are physically not able to participate in PE, a note is required to explain why. All students still need to bring their PE kit. The PE staff plan lessons to fully involve students in learning who cannot physically participate. The only exceptions to this rule are if:

- A temporary risk assessment is in place at school because your child has a broken bone or has a temporary disability that makes changing problematic.
- A reasonable adjustment on an EHCP plan has been made.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Robbins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Claire Robbins
Headteacher