

Armthorpe Academy – Newsletter HT2 23

Hello and welcome to the next edition of the Armthorpe Academy newsletter. There are lots of important updates regarding changes to how the Academy will operate on our return on Tuesday the 9th of January 2024, so thank you in advance for your time and attention.

- INSET Day – Monday 8th Jan.** Staff will return on the 8th Jan for a full INSET day, this is to help staff prepare for the term ahead and to incorporate the changes listed below. All students will return on Tuesday the 9th of January 2024.
- New Timings of the Day.** When we return in January there will be some minor changes to the internal timings of our school day. Please note, we **are not** changing the start time or the end time of the day. Please see the table below which outlines our new timings.

	Start	End
Breakfast (Optional)	8:00	8:25
Form Time	8:30	9:00
P1	9:00	10:00
P2	10:00	11:00
Break	11:00	11:15
P3	11:15	12:15
P4 / Yr9 & 11 Lunch	12:15	12:45
P4 / Yr7 Lunch	12:45	13:15
P4 / Yr8 & 10 Lunch	13:15	13:45
P5	13:45	14:45

The main changes to the school day include:

* Every day starting with a 30min form time, enabling staff to check in with students and make sure they are ready for the day ahead.

* 5 x 1hr lessons, instead of 5 x 55min lesson [This small change will add 80+ hours of additional learning every year, that's over 400hrs extra hours learning over their 5yrs here.

* A single 15min break (To facilitate this we are opening a second canteen in the South Hall just for our year seven and year eight students).

* 3 x 30 minute lunch breaks rather than the current model which is 2x30 minute lunch breaks. (This will allow for our year seven students to have a lunch break all to themselves.)

- New Staff.** I'm pleased to announce that in January we welcome seven new members of staff to our Armthorpe team. These are two new members of the Leadership Team, a new Head of Science, two x Heads of Year, a new Technology Teacher, and a new Inclusion Support Officer. We have also recently welcomed an additional catering assistant [this again will help ensure that break and lunch times are a speedier service].
- New Timetable.** When our students return to lessons in January they will be issued with a new timetable. The new timetable is necessary due to both the changes to the timing of the day, but more importantly the new staff joining the Academy. Increased staffing means that we are able to offer more subjects and reduce class sizes for even more of our students.
- New Catering Offer.** One of the most consistent concerns parents have reported to me since I started here in September is around the catering and canteen issues. You will have seen already how the timings of the day changing allow for more children to get access to food and for them to have longer to sit and eat. I'm pleased to announce that from the 1st of December we have been operating a breakfast club providing bagels, cereals, and porridge to all Armthorpe students **for free**. Breakfast club runs from 8:00 till 8:25 every day, there is no sign up needed, the students just need to go to the canteen to get their free breakfast. In addition to this we have just launched our new three-week menu, increasing the number of high-quality meals our students can access [this includes for the first time an offer that is more environmentally friendly], it even includes a significantly improved offer on meat free options. As a result of this the new price for a meal and pudding is now set at £2.50, this is still 15p a day lower than the national average of £2.65, and 23p day lower than the average packed lunch which costs £2.73 a day. The new meal deal offer does not however include a drink, the main reason for this is our suppliers applied a significant price hike to the cost of the small bottles of water we previously stocked. Whilst water, flavoured water and flavoured milk are still available to purchase separately, it is far more cost effective instead for students to use their own personal reusable water bottle which can be filled at our water fountains on site. Personal water bottles can be purchased in most high street shops for as little as the cost of two of our single use bottles.

- New Student Entrance.** From January the 9th, the school will be operating a single point of entry for all students. This entry point will be via the **main entrance** and to the left of the new build. Parents and carers can still use the rear car park to drop students off to help avoid congestion and to keep the traffic on Mere Lane to a minimum, using the rear car park to drop off will also help keep our children safe during the morning rush. We will still be using the



rear gate at the end of the day as well as the front exit. This single point of entry allows for all students to have a warm and welcoming start to their school day directing all students straight into the canteen where they may or may not wish to take up their free breakfast offer.

7. New Language for Conduct. One of the biggest changes your child and you will notice in January is a change to the language we use when encouraging positive behaviour in the Academy. From day one I have shared with you my passionate belief about a student's 'Right to Learn' and about the teachers 'Right to Teach'. A series of displays are being put up in classrooms and corridors around the site over the Christmas holidays ready for students' return, reminding them about the expectations of how they should and should not behave in and around the school. I have attached for your information three key displays that will form the basis of the language we use moving forward here at the Academy. We are also moving away from the previous language of consequences that included the issuing of C1's up to C4's. I have never been a fan of this system as I find it overly confusing and overly complicated! Instead, we are moving to a far simpler set of instructions to encourage students to make the right choices when in and out of lessons. (see below)

Before any of our behaviour management stages are used it would be expected that staff remind the students of our expectations and use standard behaviour management techniques to encourage students to make the right choice. If however students are not making the right choice and are denying other students their right to learn and/or denying a member of staff their right to teach then the following three stages will be applied in lessons

Stage 1 = Warning. The member of staff will make the student aware that they have been given a warning, the reason for the warning will be made very clear to the student. This reason will be linked to one of the 'LEARN' criteria, as shown on the 'right to learn display attached to this e-mail. This stage of the process **is not** logged on class charts.

Stage 2 = Formal Warning. If a warning has not had the desired effect, then the member of staff will escalate the situation to a 'Formal Warning'. As with our standard warning the reason will again be linked to one of our 'LEARN' criteria, it will be made clear to the student at all stages that these warnings are being issued because they are denying other students their right to learn or denying the teacher their right to teach. This stage of the process **is** logged on class charts and will carry negative behaviour points.

Stage 3= Student Removal. The final stage of our process involves the student being removed from the learning space and being escorted directly to our removal room. Unlike the current process the students will not be taken to a different classroom but will instead be taken straight to a central space, where they will remain for the rest of that 'learning session'. The timings for the learning sessions can be seen on the table below. Again this stage of the process will be logged on class charts and will carry an increased amount of negative behaviour points.

	Start	End
Session 1	8:30	11:12
Session 2	11:15	13:42
Session 3	13:45	14:45

- If a student is referred to the removal room this will immediately trigger a detention after school at the next available detention slot.
- If a student fails to follow instructions whilst in the removal room, this may result in a more serious sanction such as a fixed term suspension.
- If a student is in the removal room during session 2 they will order and eat their lunch in the removal room.
- If a student is referred to the removal room for session one and session two in the same day, they will spend the remainder of the day in the removal room.

8. New Corridor Expectations. Thank you so much to those of you who replied to my request asking for your thoughts on what our corridor expectations should be, I received well over 80 responses and I'm pleased to be able to share with you our new 'corridor culture' displays that will be shown around the Academy after the Christmas break. If students are found to be in breach of one of the seven expectations this will be logged either in their student planner [under the C2 section] or in the case of more serious incidents directly on class charts.

One final note I want to thank you all for making my first 70 days at Armthorpe an enjoyable experience. Whilst undoubtedly there are challenges ahead, I hope you can see that my open and honest approach to leadership and my willingness to listen and respond to your voices and opinions are helping us all shape Armthorpe Academy for the better as we move forward. I hope you have a restful break and I look forward to welcoming all our students back in the new year.

Warmest Regards
Mr David Bisley

