



2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I just wanted to share with you some important updates and announcements regarding all things Armthorpe Academy.

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you for your understanding around the issues we've had with our fire alarm system over the last two weeks. I am so sorry that this has caused disruption to you and your family and I want to reassure you that my premises team and I are doing everything we can to ensure this will not happen again. Can I also reassure you that the alert system on our fire alarm is, and always has been fully functional, so if there was a genuine threat the alarm will work as normal.

You may also be aware that on Wednesday this week the alarm was triggered again. Disappointingly, this was not a fault but was instead activated by a student at the Academy. I want to let you know just how seriously I am treating this incident, as our school community has faced enough disruption during the last two weeks without further cause to disturb teaching and learning. We are carrying out a full investigation of the incident and will be making a decision shortly on this matter.

On a more positive note, I am pleased to report that we have purchased a new piece of software to enable our parents' evenings to be an easier and more transparent process of booking appointments with the staff that you most want to see. Importantly, this will also include the opportunity to meet with your child's form tutor to talk about matters outside of core learning.

Please find below the revised dates for upcoming parents' evenings. Attached to this e-mail are instructions about how to use our new parents' evening booking system. If you do have any issues registering or using the system, please contact us on [ARM-enquiries@consilium-at.com](mailto:ARM-enquiries@consilium-at.com)

Yr7 - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May  
Yr8 - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March  
Yr9 - Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February  
Yr10 - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March  
Yr11 - Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February

*Yr9 Options Evening - Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March*

You will also find attached to this e-mail information about National Apprenticeship week, which runs from 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> February. We will be speaking to our Year 10 and Year 11 students during form time about opportunities locally, and most importantly how this relates to their academic and educational needs once they leave Armthorpe Academy.

There is some really useful information and links in the attached newsletter for students, and also for parents specific to how you can support your child through their GCSE and post 16 and post 18 choices.

I would also like to say just how proud I am of our students since they returned after Christmas. The standards of uniform and punctuality in the morning is better than it has ever been. The vast majority of Armthorpe students are turning up looking smart, acting smart and thinking smart, thank you for the huge part you play in helping us get this right.

The final one from me is probably one of the biggest announcements that I have made, not only since I started in September, but what is likely to be one of the biggest announcements I will make in my time here as Headteacher.

With the backing of our trust, we have decided to introduce a **house system** into Armthorpe Academy.

I've always been a passionate believer in the culture of success, friendly competition, and the power of communities. I believe that having a house system here will enable us to achieve all these things as well as providing a sense of unity and community for students, for staff, and for Armthorpe as a whole. It also presents us with opportunities to reward, to

celebrate, and to praise students' efforts and achievements in school, but also to recognise all the amazing things our students do out in the community, in and beyond Armthorpe.

This is obviously a significant piece of work for everybody involved at Armthorpe and there will be lots more information coming your way in the upcoming weeks and months about the part you play in this process.

However, this process starts today! We have agreed that the four houses will follow the typical colours of Red, Blue, Green, and Yellow. What we have not decided, and this is where you come in, is what the houses shall be called.

Please find attached a link to a Microsoft form that is being shared with all students, staff, parents, and members of our school community to make suggestions on what our four houses should be called. They could be named after locations (local, national, or international), people (again local, national, or international), things relevant to Armthorpe, to Doncaster or they could just be names that you feel would work particularly well as house names.

<https://forms.office.com/e/dmVGw0vT6e>

I await your ideas with interest! As always, if you would like to get in touch to discuss anything please drop us an email and I will make sure I find the time to invite you in for a chat.

Warm regards



David Bisley  
Headteacher

