

Monday 25th March 2024



Armthorpe
Academy
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HEADS UPDATE



Standards & Expectations at Armthorpe: Phase 3

Hello and welcome to another Heads Update, this week I will be focussing on the upcoming changes to our Standards & Expectations.

From the day I arrived at the Armthorpe Academy I have been clear with everyone associated with this school that there would be changes around the standards and expectations we allow. Standards, expectations, and routines are what creates a climate at any school, once you have created the correct climate, it then just becomes a matter of insisting that these standards, expectations, and routines are met day after day, week after week. It is only then that this climate for learning can become the school's culture for learning. Our culture is shaped by our core values, it must be ambitious, allowing students to strive for excellence, it must be one that is based on a belief of mutual respect and kindness. Our culture must equip our students for life beyond Armthorpe, a life where pride, resilience and empathy are valued and displayed.

Therefore, the changes I am making and the rules I am reminding you about, come from a place that is driving towards achieving those very values.

Phones: Current policy states 'Mobile phones and personal music players are NOT allowed to be used on the Academy premises during the school day'. From the 15th April we are spotlighting this rule, if a student is seen with their phone out, they will be asked to put it away and they will be given a strike in their planner under our 'Corridor Culture' expectation 5. 5 x strikes in any week will result in a day in Supervised Learning (SL). If a student does not have a planner or an emergency planner their phone will be confiscated by a Head of Year or Senior Leader. If they are using their phone inappropriately it will be confiscated immediately irrespective of the circumstances. If they refuse to hand their phone over, they will be referred to their Head of Year who will place them in SL with immediate effect until the phone is handed over. Repeat offenders will be suspended and will have phone bans of varying lengths. A phone ban will mean you hand your phone over at the front gate before being permitted access to the site.

Appropriate use of phones on site before 8:30am and after 2:45pm will be permitted from 15th April. Armthorpe staff are permitted to allow the use of phones in lessons as part of a planned educational experience.

Be under no illusion, the risk of phone addiction and screen obsession is the single biggest threat our children face in modern society. The Department for Education have recently sent out guidance to all schools instructing them to ban phones (link below)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-crackdown-on-mobile-phones-in-schools#:~:text=New%20mobile%20phones%20in%20schools,phone%20use%20with%20great%20results.>

You only need to google 'dangers of phone addiction' to see just how much evidence is out there on the risks, here is but one of the many articles listing all the dangers: <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/addictions/smartphone-addiction.htm>

Thank you in advance for your support with this, I know how hard this may be for some of our students, but we only achieve this by working together. This is not a 'new rule', this rule has been in place for a couple of years now and is soon to be national rule for all schools, all we are doing is highlighting and spotlighting this rule.

Standards & Expectations at Armthorpe: Phase 3

Skirts

Our current uniform policy states the following: Skirts knee length and should be plain dark grey or black.

As of the 15th of April, the description we use regarding skirt length is changing to 'it must be between the student's knee and the mid-point of their thigh'. We feel this slight change is a reasonable compromise between the current length listed on our uniform policy, and the unacceptably short lengths worn by some students. Some current skirt lengths are not professional nor are they appropriate for an educational setting, especially as the weather starts to improve and students no longer require tights. This expectation will be enforced by a small team of female staff who will be in touch with parents directly to discuss any concerns we have. This expectation is being reinforced to preserve our student's dignity and safeguard other Academy students and staff.

This is not a new rule, again this is a reinforcement of an existing rule with a sensible and reasonable adjustment made.

A new rule that I am introducing is one regarding the wearing of coats and outdoor clothing in the buildings.

Coats & Outdoor Clothing

From 15th April all coats, jumpers, jackets etc are to be removed when inside the building. Students should only be wearing approved uniform items inside. Outdoor clothing must be carried or put in a bag. Any student seen with an outdoor coat on in the building will be issued a U and dated in their planner under Corridor Culture. Ties must be always worn and at an appropriate length (between the 'belt line' and halfway point of a student's torso). We are removing restrictions around what can be worn whilst outside, our only stipulation is its removed when entering any building. There will be times when the internal temperature means coats are worn at a teacher's discretion. This will very much be the exception and will require the teacher getting prior approval from a senior leader first.

Planners

Thank you for your patience with our temporary planners last half term, we are pleased to launch the new style planner this week. On Monday 18th March, all students were given a new planner that is expected to last until the end of this academic year. Any replacement planner will be charged at £2.50. A planner will be replaced if it is lost, damaged or defaced. It is at the discretion of a Head of Year or a Senior Leader if a planner needs replacing. Students will copy their timetables into their planners, this stops the need to check phones to see their timetable during school hours. Students that repeatedly forget their planners will result in an escalation of consequences.

As mentioned at the start, 75% of what is covered in these updates are not 'new' rules at Armthorpe, they are either existing rules or ones that needed updating. Positive change happens through small gains, high performing teams achieve this by making little changes that when combined have a big impact.

That is what we are doing at Armthorpe, sweeping changes with no warning don't work, I hope that by giving you almost a months' notice it allows you to prepare for the changes explained above.

Thank you in advance for your support with these changes, when we work together everything is easier, whilst you may have personal reservations about some of what we are implementing, by putting on a united front we are able to achieve great things.

Warm regards
David Bisley
Headteacher

Trips, Visits, Extra Curricular activities and other bits!



On Wednesday 6th March 49 students went to see Man City beat Copenhagen 3-1 at the Etihad stadium. Trip Leader Mr Dwyer commented on how amazing the students had been and a great time was had by all (except the Copenhagen fans!)

Friday 8th March saw Miss Taylor take 10 of our female students to Sheffield Hallam University to celebrate both International Womens Day & Science Week



Can I also take this opportunity to say a huge well done to our Yr8 & Yr9 Boys football teams who are both currently top of their respective leagues.



Championship Year 9 Boys

League Table

FULL TABLE DETAIL >						
Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Armthorpe Y9 Boys	4	3	1	0	10
2	Laurel Academy Y9 Boys	2	1	1	0	4
3	XP Y9 Boys	1	1	0	0	4
4	Don Valley Y9 Boys	0	0	0	0	0
5	Sir Thomas Wharton Y9 Boys	0	0	0	0	0
6	Outwood Danum Y9 Boys	1	0	0	1	-2
7	Trinity Academy Y9 Boys	1	0	0	1	-3
8	Outwood Adwick Y9 Boys	1	0	0	1	-4
9	Ash Hill Y9 Boys	2	0	0	2	-10



Championship Year 8 Boys

League Table

FULL TABLE DETAIL >						
Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Armthorpe Y8 Boys	7	7	0	0	21
2	De Warrenne Y8 Boys	6	4	1	1	13
3	Roxington All Saints Y8 Boys	5	3	1	1	10
4	Astrea Woodfields Y8 Boys	4	3	1	0	10
5	Outwood Adwick Y8 Boys	5	2	0	3	-6
6	Ash Hill Y8 Boys	4	1	1	2	4
7	Laurel Academy Y8 Boys	4	1	0	3	-3
8	Trinity Academy Y8 Boys	1	0	0	1	-4
9	Sir Thomas Wharton Y8 Boys	1	0	0	1	-5
10	Outwood Danum Y8 Boys	5	0	0	5	-16
11	XP Y8 Boys	4	0	0	4	-19

Ski Trip

Please could you register interest for the ski trip by Tues 26th March.

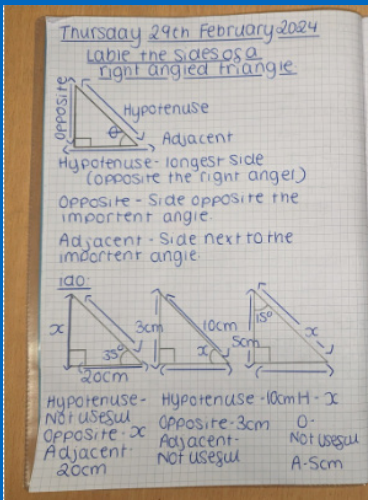
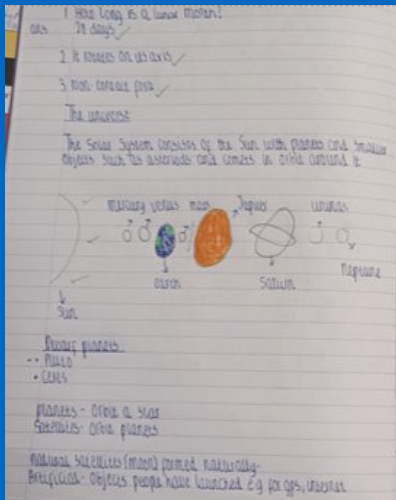
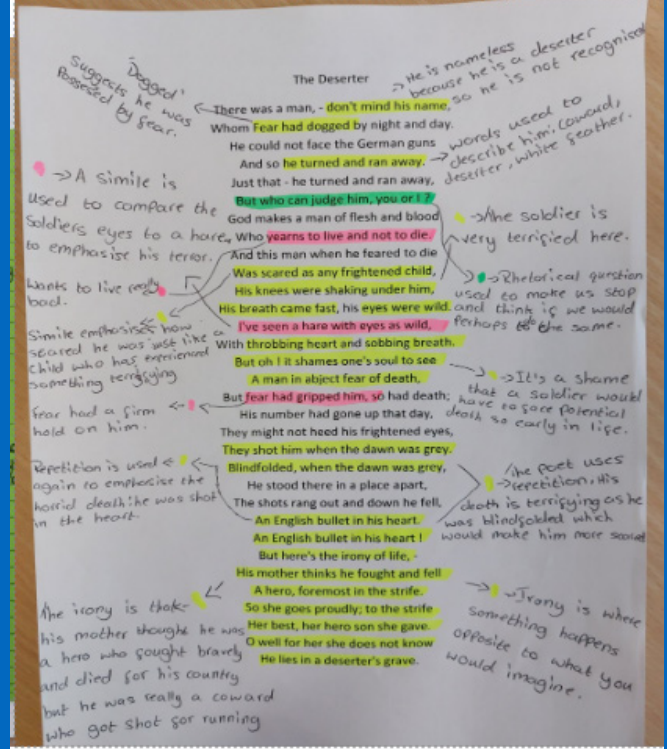
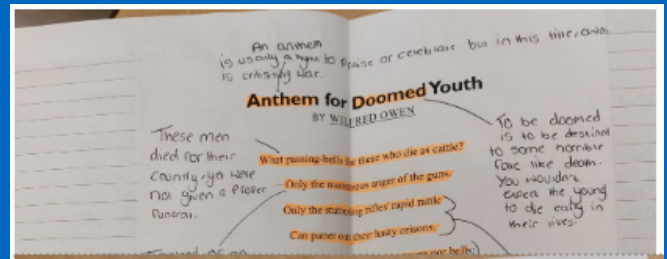
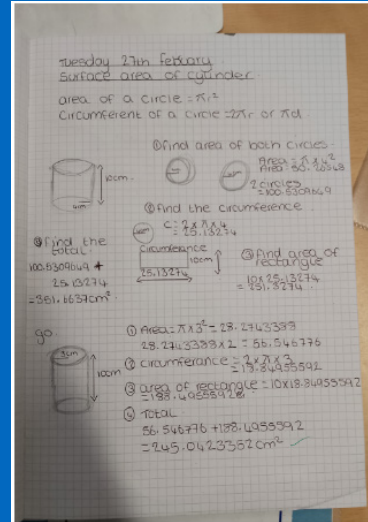
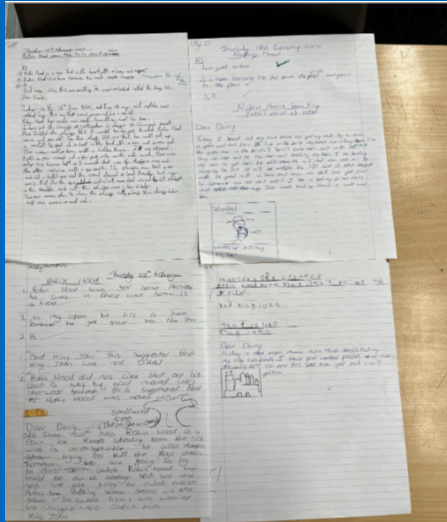
Please could you pay £50 deposit by Thursday 28th March to confirm interest for the Y7/8 residential.

For more details see Mr Dwyer

Finally, we had over 40 students attend Trampolining club this week.



Wonderful Work (join us in celebrating some of the amazing work our students have produced this week)



Behaviour & Attendance

Fantastic Five (Most praise points last week)

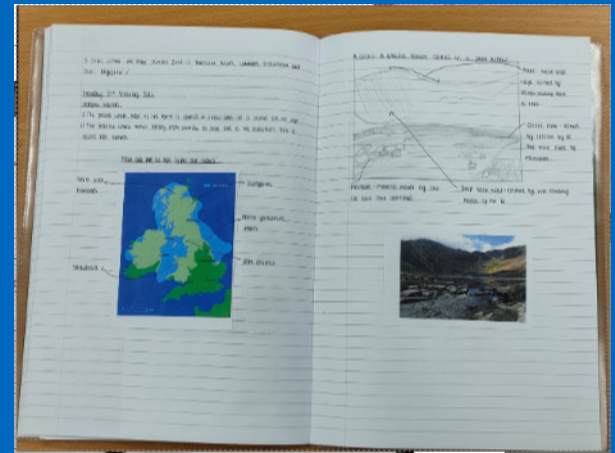
Ziggy Strephan (7HWH)
Preston Wheeler (8HDO)
George Jackson (8KRA)
Leon Elliott (8HDO)
Amelia Czerniecka (8MLO)

Most Form Praise Points last week:

Yr7: Miss Whelan (6,435)
Yr8: Miss Dodd (9,830)
Yr9: Miss Hodgson (15,540)
Yr10: Miss Stothard (9,930)
Yr11: Mr Booth (2,655)

Best Weekly Attendance:

Yr7: 7AMA (95.6%) Yr8: 8MLO (94%)
Yr9: 9SAD (99%) Yr10: 10VTA (99%)
Yr11: 11TSC (95.2%)



Dates for your Diary

26th March: Yr9 Options Evening
28th March: Last day of term