



# Armthorpe Academy

*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*

11<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

What a fabulous week; the atmosphere in school has been as good as the weather this week! Students have come back purposeful, calm and eager to learn. We have a busy half term ahead. Detailed below for your information is a summary of key events:

## **Year 11**

Post-16 'bridging' sessions will begin in school on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June for two weeks. An email with a timetable has been sent to all Year 11 students. If your child is interested in attending subject specific sessions, they should enroll using the 'online form' contained within the email.

## **Year 10**

Thank you to all parents who have made appointments with the leadership team to discuss Year 11 options with us next week. We have had over a 95% response, which is phenomenal. We look forward to speaking with you next week to ensure appropriate pathways are selected for all students.

To further support Year 10 with next steps, on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July, the full year group will visit New College for a taster day. Students have selected subjects they are potentially interested in pursuing post-16, this provides the first step in helping to shape future options and aspirations. School staff will attend with students. Detailed information will be shared with parents in due course.

Teaching staff are currently in the process of formally assessing Year 10 to enable us to provide a full report for parents with attainment, progress and attitude to learning data. This will be disseminated in the last week of term. In light of the COVID pandemic, in the interests of students' confidence and mental health, we have decided that a formal mock exam period would be inappropriate. Instead, staff are using a series of in-class assessments to ascertain where individual students are at, which in turn, will inform teaching and settings at the start of Year 11. At present, we are keen to ensure staff can concentrate on teaching new concepts and knowledge that students must know and remember for exams next year. GCSE exam preparation and familiarity will begin in earnest in September with a series of events before October half term for families to help with revision, understanding the GCSE process and the timeline of key events.

## **Year 9**

Next year's timetable has now been written. Year 9 students will receive confirmation of option choices the week beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June. We have been able to allocate preferred choices for the vast majority of students. In the few cases where this has not been possible (due to low numbers on option groups hence no viability), we will speak with students in the first instance and then families to ensure appropriate choices are made the week commencing the 21<sup>st</sup> of June.

### **KS3 (Years 7, 8, and 9) Reports**

End of year reports will be distributed to parents for all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 the week beginning Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July. Considering COVID, there will be no formal parents' evening as such, but if parents have any concerns or queries following receipt of the report, then we will be facilitating a drop-in session after school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the following week with the leadership team. Year 8 and 9 subject parents' evening will be prioritised when we return school in September in the first term before Christmas. There will also be an enrolment day on the first day back in September when all parents will meet with a member of staff for 20 minutes.

### **Student Council**

Next week in our daily values session, we will be launching our new prefect and student council system that will be launched in September. This opportunity is available for all the students to apply and provides a fantastic opportunity for students to be involved in key decision making to help us all move the academy forward together. KS4 students (Year 10 and 11) will be able to apply for prefect roles, whilst students in KS3 (Years 8 and 9) will be able to apply to be student ambassadors. As well as helping the school, a role in the student leadership team is also great for students' personal development. We will be running a full application and interview process to mirror the world of work; please encourage your child to get involved and apply to be a part of the team.

### **Ski Trip (Easter 2022)**

We are provisionally looking at running a ski trip in the first week of the Easter holidays in April 2022 (02.04.22) to Austria. At this stage before seeking approval from the Local Academy Board of Governors, we are merely asking for expressions of interest to ascertain if enough students are interested in the trip for it to be viable. The seven-day trip will run at an all-inclusive cost of £900 payable in installments. Students have watched a presentation in values time this week. If your child is interested, a letter detailing the specifics will be emailed to all parents next week. Please note, this trip is very much provisional at this stage, but moving forward in accordance with the Consilium Charter, we are very keen to ensure our students can experience memories that will last a lifetime.

### **New Logo and Website**

Finally, as previously discussed you will notice this week's newsletter is written on our new trust letterhead with the new logo. Our new website is also now live. The academy's work as part of Consilium provides many opportunities for our young people that would not otherwise exist. For example, next year we will be introducing music and technology into the KS3 curriculum. Funding from the trust has enabled GCSE photography to be offered next year. The staff also benefit from a much wider support team, which in turn only helps to improve the quality of education our children receive.

Just a reminder that parents will not be asked to buy new uniform with the new logo. Blazers and PE attire can simply be replaced as and when children have grown out of current uniform or you wish to purchase new uniform.

I hope you find this week's information informative. As always, thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards



Claire Robbins  
Headteacher

