

07/07/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to inform and remind you of a number of things ahead of the September 2021 return to the Academy.

Time of the Academy Day

In September the Academy day will change. This is after consulting with our student council on the arrangement of the day. As a result of these discussions we have removed the 90-minute double lessons and replaced these with 60-minute single lessons. As such, the new start and end times to the Academy day are as follows:

Year Group	Arrival Time	Arrival location	Finish Time
7	8:10 – 8:15am	Massey Close gate only	2:50pm
8	8:15 – 8:20am	MUGA side gate only	2:55pm
9	8:10 – 8:15am	Airlie Street gate only	3:00pm
10	8:15 – 8:20am	Airlie Street gate only	3:55pm
11	8:25 – 8:30am	MUGA side gate only	4:00pm

Same day detentions

In line with the changes to the Academy day, detentions will now operate at the end of every school day for either 30 minutes or 1 hour.

Detentions will occur at the following times:

- Year 7 from 3pm until 4pm
- Year 8 from 3pm until 4pm
- Year 9 from 3pm until 4pm
- Year 10 from 4pm until 5pm
- Year 11 from 4pm until 5pm

If your child receives a detention you will be notified of this via our internal Academy systems and this will be in the form of an email, text message or App message*.

* In the exclusive case for year 7 students all detentions will only be held after a telephone call has been made to confirm with parents. This will be the case for all detentions issued until the end of December. After this, year 7's will follow the same process as all other year groups.

After receipt of the message the detention will be undertaken on the same day. If there is an extenuating circumstance which results in the student being unable to undertake the detention on that specific day (such as a medical appointment) then please contact your child's Head of Year to discuss this and arrange the detention for the following day. These changes have been undertaken after consultation with our Student Council and Parent Teacher Association.

We welcome any parents wishing to call us to discuss their child's behaviour and conduct; we feel very strongly as an academy that your child benefits greatly from us working together and supporting them in achieving their academic goals in preparation for the working world. We have however recently had a very small minority of parents who have been abusive towards members of staff when detentions have been issued. This is not acceptable. We would like to thank the majority of parents who support their child in behaving well at school, helping them to strive to achieve academically and build a lifelong positive future for themselves. Academy staff are here to support and greatly value your support.

Uniform

Throughout this academic year the uniform policy has been relaxed to support parents in the cleaning of uniform and due to any financial hardship that families might have been going through. It is our intention to continue the no blazer and tie uniform policy for the foreseeable future and this will only change with plenty of notice provided to all parents.

However, the standards and expectations we place on families regarding uniform is still routinely broken by a small number of individuals. I am reminding all families of this now so that any uniform issues can be addressed over the summer holidays.

- Jumpers can be grey or black but must be plain only. The only logo permitted would be a TBA logo (black TBA PE jumpers must be worn for PE participation only).
- Hoodies are not permitted anywhere on site and we advise students not to bring them or wear them to school.
- No jeans are permitted under any circumstances, even if they are black.
- No trainers are permitted. Shoes should be worn in all instances and these should be black and polishable.
- Jewellery cannot be worn (with the exception of one stud in each ear and a watch). We will ask all students to remove nose studs on sight and ask them to replace them with a clear spacer. If students opt to get their nose pierced days before their return in September then they will be issued an after-school detention every day until it can safely be removed.
- Nail varnish/false nails are not permitted.

All other aspects of the uniform policy can be located on our Academy website.

We are an inclusive school and celebrate student individuality but uniform rules are in place for staff and students and during 'working' hours must be upheld. Detentions will be issued routinely if students are not following the policy and these will be non-negotiable. Students will not be sent home or isolated during lesson time due to uniform issues so that learning will always continue. However, students who are disrespectful or argumentative towards staff members when challenged on inappropriate uniform will be dealt with through our behaviour system.

Attendance

The Academy must always be notified of a child's absence from the Academy. If your child is sick then we expect a call or message to be sent to us before the start of the school day. This must include detailed reasons for the child's absence. A message telling us that they are sick is not enough detail. If your child's attendance falls well below our expectations we ask for you to visit the doctors to provide evidence of that absence. Under no circumstances is it acceptable for no contact to be made: the safety of your child relies on good communication between home and school.

Additionally, under no circumstances is it acceptable for your child to contact us themselves. Only a parent/carer who is listed on our register database is permitted to inform us of a child's absence. Anyone else contacting us would be deemed a safeguarding risk.

It is proven that those students that achieve the best GCSEs are those students with the greatest attendances. A student with 100% attendance over the 5 years of school is statically likely to get a GCSE result one grade higher than their peers who have 90% attendance. Children with attendance below 80% are very likely to significantly underachieve in their GCSEs. Please support your child by ensuring that they attend school as often as they possibly can.

If you have any concerns regarding anything in this letter we welcome your feedback and will be happy to discuss the new arrangements. Please do so by contacting your Head of Year or any of the individuals listed at the bottom of this letter.

Let me end the letter by saying thank you to all parents for the support you have provided to your children and to the Academy staff during what has been the most difficult of times.

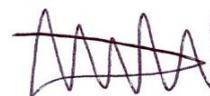
Yours sincerely,



Mr B Stevens
Assistant Vice Principal &
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Miss P Hind
Phase Leader - KS4



Miss W Luke
Phase Leader - KS3