



REF: ANS/KL

12 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the half term break, I thought it appropriate to write to you with some reflections on the situation since January and expectations for a **possible** return on 8th March. Currently we have no further guidance on the return date and are working on the assumption that some, if not all, students will return on that date. The government is due to announce the situation on 22nd February and I will correspond with you again following that announcement.

Remote Learning

Thank you for all the support we have received from parents. General engagement has increased over time because of letters and phone calls alerting parents to concerns. Thank you for having conversations with your children to ensure they participate regularly. We had the pleasure of sending out approximately 200 postcards to students who have engaged with their learning over 70% of the time.

We have over 100 children accessing the Academy over the course of a week and this has allowed us to support our most vulnerable students to cope with the pressures of the lockdown. Our school counsellor is available for emotional support every day, both face to face and via the telephone. The atmosphere in the Academy is positive, calm and learning focussed, students have respected 2m distancing and look after each other.

Our ICT team have done a fantastic job ensuring that all children at home can access their education. The DfE issued 178 laptops, but the Academy has provided a further 325 laptops of our own to families. This has supported over 500 of our children. We continue to request laptops from the DfE, so please contact us if you require a device.

On that note, when students do return, please ensure that all laptops are returned so that 325 devices can be used to support learning in the classroom.

Staff have done an incredible job maintaining engagement and thank you to parents who have acknowledged the huge efforts teaching staff have gone to. If you would like to show your appreciation, please email or post a positive comment on Facebook. I share all comments with the whole team, and it has such a positive impact on staff well-being. Happy teachers usually equates to happy children!

March 8th Return Implications

Should we return on the 8th March, we will be expected to do mass testing of all students before they attend the Academy. We are expected to do this twice – once prior to attending and the second time when they are in attendance. It is therefore imperative that you have completed the consent form before the 22nd February bit.ly/2LpSsle if you have not yet done so. **You must complete the form whether you agree to the test or not.**

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Parents' Evenings

The remaining year groups and dates are below. Year 10 will be a remote parent's evening. The others may be in person or remote dependant on restriction at the time. More information will follow as we near each date.

Year Group	Date	Time
Year 10	23 rd March	4pm – 6pm
Year 9	27 th April	Decided nearer time
Year 8	22 nd June	Decided nearer time

Weduc

Year 7 parents will be sent invitations and password information for a new parental engagement app called Weduc, after half term. We will introduce Year 7 parents in the first instance and once issues have been ironed out, we will introduce to all other year groups. The portal will greatly improve communication between the Academy and home and will provide a central point for all letters, positive messages and good news, individual children's timetables and attendance and links to websites, Parent Pay, ClassCharts, uniform etc. This will be accessible from your phone or desktop.

Term Dates 2021/22

Below are the term dates for next academic year. While we hope that holidays will be available to us by the end of summer, please avoid term dates at all costs. Supporting missed learning will be difficult enough when we are back to normal, without the unnecessary absence due to a holiday.

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
Summer 2021	Friday 16 July 2021	Monday 6 September 2021 (All years)
Autumn Half Term 2021	Friday 22 October 2021	Monday 1 November 2021
Training Day	Monday 29 th November – School is closed for training	
Christmas 2021	Friday 17 December 2021	Wednesday 5 January 2022
Spring Half Term 2022	Friday 18 February 2022	Monday 28 February 2022
Easter 2022	Friday 8 April 2022	Monday 25 April 2022
May Day 2022	Friday 29 April 2022	Tuesday 3 May 2022
Summer Half Term 2022	Friday 27 May 2022	Monday 6 June 2022
Training Day	Monday 27 th June 2022 – School closed for training	
Summer 2022	Friday 22 July 2022	To be determined

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Wishing all our students a relaxing half term holiday. Please encourage them to get fresh air, minimise more screen time on computer games and have some family time.

Take care of each other.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Sweeten', written in a cursive style.

Mrs A Sweeten
Principal