

23 March 2021

Dear Families

### **End of Term Update**

Although we have only been back in the building for a few weeks, we have had a very good return to school. Scholars have readjusted to the return and disruption of lateral flow testing. We are looking forward to a full term of learning and showcasing what our scholars are capable of.

As the Spring Term draws to a close this week, there are a few important messages that I would like to share.

### **Easter Holiday Dates**

The academy closes to scholars in all year groups on Wednesday 24 March (usual times for the end of day) and reopens on Monday 12 April.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

High attendance and punctuality are vital building blocks for exceptional outcomes. We know that scholars who have an attendance above 97% achieve their maximum progress in schools leading to ambitious life choices. Attendance and punctuality is one of our 6 learning habits that provide a framework to ensure our core values (Happiness, Industry and Responsibility) are embedded within our daily practice and routines. Every day that your child is in school means that they are safe, learning and achieving.

Can I remind all families that term time holidays will not be authorised by the academy. We are required by law to notify the local authority where families choose to take time off during the school year and fixed penalty fines will be issued. Attendance is a huge factor in your child's success at school - the only time your child should be missing is when they are too ill to attend or, throughout this period, are showing symptoms of COVID 19. The school calendar for next academic year (21-22) is attached with this letter.

A child will be considered late if they do not arrive within 3 minutes to the start of each lesson. Please support this by keeping to bed-time routines and preparation time in the morning before school.

### **Absence**

When a scholar is absent from the academy with no advance notice, for example because of illness, parents must telephone the academy that same morning, and each subsequent morning, to inform us of the reason for absence before 8.20am. It is possible to leave messages on the scholar absence voicemail at any time prior to 8.20am. To report an absence, please dial the main academy telephone number on 01274 567281 and select the appropriate option. Please note that only emergency appointments for dentists, opticians, and doctors should be during school hours. Routine appointments must be made out of school hours. Evidence for any appointment will always be asked for and brought into the academy prior to the event. Absence is monitored very carefully at the academy. Every day missed is a learning opportunity wasted.

### **Lateral Flow testing at home**

Scholars are expected to continue testing twice a week at home throughout the holiday. Where parents have consented, all scholars will be issued with 9 tests. Please ensure details are reported to NHS and on the academy website in order for us to trace any contacts. <https://www.dixonsaa.com/about/covidtesting>

### **Uniform**

We have had an amended uniform policy for some time, allowing scholars to wear hoodies under their academy blazer. This was due to increased ventilation during the winter months consequently making the environment cooler. The



weather is now improving. When scholars return after the Easter break hoodies will no longer be allowed. All scholars will be expected to wear shirt, tie and blazers without hoodies.

We have finished our in school lateral flow testing and are able to use the PE facilities as normal, scholars are no longer required to wear PE kit to the academy on PE days. Shoes not trainers must be worn daily.

In line with academy policy please ensure that on return, scholars have no inappropriate lines or patterns shaved into their hair.

Our Advisors check uniform and equipment daily to ensure they have everything they need to have a successful day

### Easter Food Support

The government have not provided schools with funding for meal vouchers over the Easter holidays. Instead, they have supported charitable organisations to provide support direct to communities. If you need any support while school is closed, information can be found here: <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/health/health-advice-and-support/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/>. All the organisations will be able to support with food and holiday activities.

### National Restrictions

It is expected that there will be further limited changes to the lockdown restrictions from Monday 29 March - outdoor gatherings of either 6 people or 2 households will be allowed, including in private gardens. We hope that this change in rule will mean that our children will get to spend time outdoors with friends and family.

The days are becoming brighter and the sun feels warmer - don't forget to put your clocks forward an hour on Saturday night. I am sure like me, you are really looking forward to long sunny days after the tough winter we have had.

I hope you enjoy the holiday - hopefully there won't be too many changes to school arrangements for the summer term. If there are, I will be in touch during the holidays. We look forward to seeing all scholars back in school on Monday 12 April. Year group entry and exit times will remain the same:

	Entry Point	Entry time	Exit time
Year 13	Far DT door	8:55am	15:15pm
Year 12	Main Entrance	8:55am	15:15pm
Year 11	First DT door	8:30am	15:20pm
Year 10	Far DT door	8:40am	15:30pm
Year 9	Main Entrance	8:40am	15:30pm
Year 8	Sports Hall Entrance	8:30am	15:20pm
Year 7	Main Entrance	8:30am	15:20pm

Your support and understanding has been much appreciated over the last year. I wish you a peaceful and restful family break

Yours sincerely



C Skelding  
Executive Principal

