

Friday 6th January 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope you all had a peaceful Christmas break and that 2023 has started well for you and your family. We have had a great start to the Spring term. Staff had an excellent Inset day on Tuesday thinking about how we further improve teaching and learning at the Academy. We had a particular focus on literacy and oracy. This is so important for our children as they make their way through the Academy and on into the world beyond. Our children need to be able to speak clearly and with confidence, to present their ideas and argue persuasively. Likewise, the ability to read well and comprehend the reading material is vital. Research shows that whatever academic ability a child has, the better and the more they read, the greater academic progress they will make. On a similar note, next Wednesday we will be sharing mock results with Year 11. Many of Y11 have worked incredibly hard to achieve excellent results and others may get a bit of a wake up call and will want to get their heads down in the next few months. Thank you for your support of our students, especially those in Y10, 11 and 13 taking GCSEs or A Levels later this year.

Attendance

I thought it would be helpful to share [this](#) from the Children's Commissioner. It is a really helpful guide to support you as parents and carers. We have been a little disappointed that in some year groups attendance has not been as good as it could be this week. In my start of term assemblies, I spoke about attendance to students. The mantra is: '**if you are not here, you are not learning.**' Many students do have excellent attendance and we want this to be the case for all students.

Year 8 HPV Vaccination - Protection Against Cervical Cancer

The HPV Vaccination Programme will take place at the Academy during the end of January. The vaccination has been offered to all Year 8 girls and Boys (12-13 year olds) during the school academic year, since the NHS introduced the programme in September 2008. This has resulted in tens of thousands of girls around the UK being safely vaccinated against the disease. More information is to follow, as well as getting your consent for your child to have the vaccine.

Some useful dates for your diary:

- Learning Coach Consultation Day - 2 (Evening appointments) Thurs 19.1.2023 Virtual
- Learning Coach Consultation Day -2 (All day) Friday 20.1.2023 - Virtual
- *Half-Term break:* Monday 13.2.23 – Friday 17.2. 23
- INSET day (no students to attend): 20.2. 23
- Academy closes early for students: 31.3. 23 (at midday)
- Easter break: Monday 3.4.23 – Friday 14.4.23
- Year 11 Progress Evenings (4.15pm to 7.30pm) - 12.1.23
- Year 9 Progress Evening (4.15pm to 7.30pm) 02/02/23 (includes a talk on GCSE Options)

The Academy theme for this coming week is servant leadership and the Feast of the Epiphany reminds us of the servant leadership shown by Jesus throughout his life. We are proud and privileged to serve our families and young people. We pray that 2023 brings joy and positivity to our community.

Have a lovely weekend

Yours faithfully



Mrs. Ardron
Principal