

Dear Parent/Carer

8 December 2022

As we fast approach the end of a successful term, please find below the details for the end of term, our return in January and some brief updates on events at the academy.

Plans for the end of term

The academy will finish for the Christmas holiday on Friday 16 December. It will be a half day, with students finishing at 12.10pm. To support students in catching up with any lost learning, teachers will be teaching the normal curriculum until the last lesson of the final day, when there will be year group award assemblies. These assemblies will be on Zoom with students taking part in their form rooms. The bus will not run at the earlier finish time. The academy will return on Tuesday 3 January 2023.

Christmas Dinner

On Thursday 15 December, the catering staff at the academy will be serving Christmas Dinner at lunch break. The cost per student is £2.45.

Fund Raising

This year, the student leadership team have selected Willowbrook Hospice, as our local charity to support. Staff at the Hospice are unsung heroes who do a fantastic job in supporting people with end of life care. We have set a target of £1,000 to raise before the end of the academic year. The fundraising initiatives planned include:

- Our Student Leaders will be selling bespoke Christmas decorations, costing £2.00 each from Wednesday 7 December.
- Christmas Jumper day on Friday 16 December. The cost will be £1.00 and students who wish to take part can donate as they enter the gate, or parents can pay via ParentPay.

Another local charity we are proud to support is the Teardrops hub in St Helens. Every year, we aim to collect as many donations of food, gifts and toiletries to fill hampers for less fortunate families in our local communities. We will be taking ten students to the hub on the last day of term to help pack these hampers in readiness to share across the borough. Please refer to our social media platforms for full details of how to donate.

Student Leaders

As well as the range of fundraising initiatives, the new Student Principals are working on a range of actions that they want to have in place before they finish at the end of Year 11. They are continuing the excellent work started last academic year in achieving the Eco Green Flag Award with Merit. The team are also refreshing the student friendly safeguarding policy and plan to implement a new app for students to anonymously report concerns to the academy. We currently have an email address which students can contact, but we feel this will add an extra layer of support.



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Principal: Mr P Willerton

Staff Departing

Many of you will be aware that there are two members of staff leaving the academy at the end of term. After seven years Mrs Dempsey, the Director of Sixth Form, has secured a position as Director of Education in the prison service so will be leaving us at the end of this term. Mrs Alkarafi has been appointed as the new Director of Sixth Form and will continue to ensure that the Sixth Form goes from strength to strength. After twelve years Mr Bibby, Faculty Leader for Humanities, has secured a position as an Assistant Headteacher. Mr Traynor will be joining us as a teacher of Humanities in his place. We thank both of these staff who have played a significant part in academy improvements made in recent years.

Cost of Living

It is well publicised that the “cost of living crisis” has the potential to make life challenging over the coming months. We shared a range of agencies early in the term where parents could access support if required. Please do not hesitate to contact the academy if you need help and support, we have numerous contacts with various agencies and ways to support families who need it.

Standards (a regular reminder)

We firmly believe that students’ education should not be hampered by a lack of equipment. Below is a list of equipment that is non-negotiable so that students can access their learning.

- A bag that can at least hold a PE kit, exercise books and equipment. Any bag that can’t hold these items is not suitable.
- Pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener.
- A reading book
- A green pen (provided by the academy)
- A mini whiteboard and pen (provided by the academy)
- PE kit on those days students have PE. Students will be expected to borrow kit if they forget their own.

To make sure that staff focus can be on students learning and wellbeing, can you please make sure that students return back in January with the **correct** shoes and uniform. Students are not permitted to wear with false nails, nail varnish, fake eye lashes or dye their hair an unnatural colour. A reminder of the expectation regarding length of academy skirts, details of which have been previously communicated. Further information can be found in the uniform section of the academy website.

Thank you again for your support. I am very proud of the attitude the students have shown towards their education with a determination to make it count. I hope that everyone enjoys the well-earned rest and I look forward to welcoming all students back on Tuesday 3 January 2023.

Yours faithfully



Mr P Willerton
Principal

