



16<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### **Festive Arrangements and Important Information for the New Term**

Firstly may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very, very Merry Christmas and I hope everyone gets the opportunity to relax and spend some quality time together as a family in what has been an extremely challenging year for many. Normally this week many of you would have been to the Academy to watch our Christmas production and/or attended one of our celebration events which recognise the hard work and progress of our students both currently in school and leavers from last year - but sadly this year things have been very different.

I am looking forward to a new year and hopefully getting back at some point to a more open school that can once again come alive with sporting events, performing arts, assemblies and students using all the specialist facilities in subjects such as Technology and Science.

**We will be welcoming students back on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> January at 8.30 am with students going straight into form - more details below.**

#### **Last Day of Term (Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December)**

This will be a non-uniform day, students are asked to wear something festive whether it be a Christmas jumper or a festive pair of socks, but please remember to bring your facemask as social distancing rules and the wearing of PPE remains in force across the school. Donations to charity will be collected at the gate and during tutor time.

Thank you to everyone who has already completed the Google Form as you are already aware students will be finishing at 1.30 pm on the last day of term, and after school interventions have been cancelled also.

#### **New Year Expectations**

From January the timings of the school day for students within the mainstream provision will resemble a typical day prior to lockdown. On entry at 8.30 am students will go straight to their Tutor rooms for a 15 minute form time. They will then follow their current timetable with 2 breaks throughout the day and a leave time of 3.00 pm (Y11s will continue with their bespoke P5 lessons).

#### **Mobile phones**

Within the Academy we are reverting back to our original policy that if we see or hear a mobile phone between 8.30 am and 3.00 pm it will be confiscated and returned at 3.00 pm, repeating issues will result in phones having to be collected by parents at your convenience. In emergencies parents can contact the Academy directly via email or phone (01427 612411) and we will pass on essential communication. Sadly the misuse of mobile technology is increasing and students using social media to bully and share inappropriate information and images is a problem not just here but across the country. We want students to interact, hold conversations and make eye contact - all essential life skills that the use of mobiles is diminishing at an alarming rate. Please support this by encouraging your child to leave devices at home or at least leave in their bags switched off until 3pm.

## **Inclement Weather**

Please make sure your child attends school with a coat to protect them from the weather. In January (unless it is heavily raining) the school buildings will not be accessible until 8.20 am and on entry students will be welcomed by the leadership team, reminded about wearing their masks and then expected to move straight to their tutor rooms. Equally at break times students will be expected to get some fresh air and go outside (unless eating in the designated bubble eating areas). 2 rooms will remain available for Y11 study during social time. We are very conscious students have limited movement currently with the use of bubbles and therefore to support their health and wellbeing it is vital they get up, move outside and take in some fresh recharging air before starting the next section of the day.

## **Uniform**

I am pleased to confirm the Uniform Direct will shortly be stocking elements of our uniform along with Pinders online service. Please remember that we have very clear uniform expectations which includes only wearing Academy jumpers and that P.E kit items such as the TGA Hoody must only be worn inside the Academy on days your child has P.E.

Lastly, we are ever so excited to be launching the initial part of our Gainsborough Pledges in January with a focus on developing students' life skills. Hopefully you had the opportunity to watch our podcast and will be encouraging your child to pledge to develop their cultural experience and support the local community.

We thank you for your on-going support and, on behalf of everyone at The Gainsborough Academy, I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable Christmas break and a happy and successful hopefully Covid-free New Year.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Leng  
Principal