

14th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I am delighted with the positive progress our students have made during this first term; the Christmas holiday will be a welcomed break for many students.

New Sports Complex

I am delighted to inform that the new sports complex is due for completion at the end of February / early March 2024. This is an exciting time in the Academy's continued journey to improving the life chances for our community and as such, plan to showcase the facilities in an Open Morning for parents / carers and members of the community. Details to follow in due course.

Attendance

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents/carers for continued support of our expectations of a high level of attendance from all of our students. There is a clear link between attendance and attainment at school, with those students who have poor attendance being less likely to achieve good GCSE grades. We are here to support students and their parents/carers to ensure that they maximise their potential and to enable them to overcome any barriers preventing them from attending school.

We expect all students to attend the Academy each day unless there is a valid and justified reason. Students must attend to achieve and every lesson matters. If your child is absent from the Academy, please telephone every day on 01302 562541 option 1 or email to attendance@ashhillacademy.org.uk to give a reason for absence. Staff are available to take calls from 8.00am until 4.00pm; however, we do have an answering machine, so please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Alternatively, as you are already aware, contact can be made via the My Child At School App.

Water Bottles

As from 8th January 2024, cups for drinks at break and dinner will no longer be available. The Trust is striving for sustainability and as you will be aware, all students were issued with a free water bottle. If your child has lost/broken their water bottle, they can purchase a new one from the canteen at £2.00 each – the amount will be deducted from their dinner money account balance at the till. Alternatively, they can bring their own bottle from home.

Contact with the Academy

May I take this opportunity to remind parents/carers that if you need to make contact with the Academy there are a number of ways in which this can be done: this can be via telephone, email or voicemail. As a polite request, please note that our Academy telephone lines are very busy and we endeavour to answer your call as soon as possible. If you are unable to make contact you can email via the school email address: info@ashhillacademy.org.uk / attendance@ashhillacademy.org.uk or leave a voicemail and we will make contact with you. Academy teachers, leadership team and pastoral staff may not be able to take your calls before 2.30p.m. due to them being in supervised contact with students or in pre-booked meetings. We ask for your support in ensuring that if you wish to meet with member of Academy staff, that this is arranged in advance. We cannot facilitate immediate face to face appointments. The Academy has received an increase in occurrences of verbal and aggressive abuse towards staff in recent months. The Academy will not tolerate this and we ask for your patience and understanding.

In the final week of this term there will be a number of events and celebrations planned:

- Tuesday 19th December - Christmas dinner will be served in the dining hall. Students will be seated at decorated tables and will be served a traditional Christmas dinner.
- Thursday 21st December - Christmas Concert for the local community.
- Friday 22nd December - Celebration assemblies will take place for all year groups.

Last Day of Term

Friday 22nd December 2023 – The Academy will close at 12.15p.m. All students will register at 12 noon and then will be dismissed to leave the Academy. The dining hall will be open for any students who wish to have a school meal before they leave the Academy site.

Stay Safe

Please remind your child of the importance to stay away from water/lakes /ponds etc. at this time of year. They should not be tempted to walk onto any water that may look frozen and put their lives and the lives of others at risk.

On behalf of the Academy staff and students, may I wish you and your family a very safe and merry Christmas and a happy new year and we all look forward to seeing everyone return to the Academy on **Monday, 8th January 2024.**

Yours faithfully



Mr M Hicks
Associate Principal