

27th October 2022

End of Half Term Updates for Parents / Carers

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well.

Class Charts

Over 650 Class Charts accounts have now been activated. This is a brand-new communication tool for parents and carers who use Class Charts to keep informed of their child's REWARDS, as well as CONSEQUENCES. You will have access to live information on rewards and sanctions. If your child receives a PRIDE POINT during the day, this is recorded by staff onto Class Charts and you can view this directly online.

Between 5 and 10 PRIDE POINTS are awarded in each class by all teachers. Students earn them each week for 100% attendance, 100% equipment and 100% uniform. In addition to this, students can earn PRIDE POINTS for independent learning, extra-curricular activities, reading and for showing Airedale Academy values. One student from each year group who has received a point is randomly selected each day for a shout-out on social media. Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram (airedaleacademy1) Equally, you will receive live notification of any sanctions that have been logged. **From now on, parents and carers will be informed of all detentions via the Class Charts App only. Detentions are usually set for the following day.**

If you have more than one child, you can access Class Charts information about different students from a single, centralised parent / carer account. Class Charts for parents / carers can be accessed via our website, or via an iOS or Android apps. You can find this in the App store or Google Play.

Badges are awarded when a student achieves a particular goal, such as 10, 50 or 100 PRIDE POINTS. These are in the BADGES section of Class Charts.

Please support your child by downloading and accessing your Class Charts App. Please contact us if you have difficulty in setting up your account; we will be happy to help you. We will continue to use My Child At School for attendance, general communication and payment for lunches etc..

Airedale's Winter Tour

Following the success and popularity of Airedale on Tour in the summer term, we are delighted to confirm that Airedale's Winter Tour will take place on Wednesday 15th December for eligible students. There will be announcements on social media, a full launch with students and a letter to parents and carers after the half-term break.

School Meals

From Monday, 31st October 2022, the Free School Meal allowance per day will increase from £2.25 to £2.30. For £2.30, every student in receipt of free school meals has a range of options for purchasing a 'Meal Deal'. There has been a small increase in price for a number of items across our menu. These price increases are a small part of the 10.1% increase in food prices that our catering activity is currently facing. As an Academy and Trust we have taken the decision to cover the majority of the price increases rather than pass these on to you, our parents and carers.

Every student, whether they are entitled to a Free School Meal or if they pay for their meal, will be able to buy a hot meal from the Academy for £2.30 per day. We have updated our menu (which can be found on our website).

Breakfast Club

We are pleased to announce the re-opening of our Breakfast Club from Tuesday, 1st November 2022. Students wishing to attend will need to arrive at the Academy (middle library gate) for 7.45am. For safeguarding purposes, only students who are at the lower gate at 7.45am will be allowed into the Breakfast Club. The Breakfast Club will be open from 7.45am - 8.15am for students in any year group. Students will have access to the free Magic Breakfast Bagels and will be able to purchase other breakfast items if they wish. Students attending the Breakfast Club will be supervised in the main dining area and will not be allowed to access other areas of the Academy site.

Uniform Reminders

As we start to experience adverse weather, we are happy for our students to wear a plain black v-neck jumper or cardigan (no logos or sweatshirts) underneath their blazer. Please remind your son / daughter that this is to be worn with their blazer not instead of it. Please support us by making sure that your child also has appropriate school shoes.

Please can we ask that false nails and nail varnish are removed before students return to school on Monday 31st October. It is also important that students don't get piercings over the holidays, as they will have to remove them when they return to school; students are allowed one stud in each ear.

Thank-you for your continued support in making sure that our students look smart and wear their uniform with pride. We are really proud of how our students present themselves every day and appreciate your efforts.

School Performance Tables

During the last week of term, the government published performance data from the summer 2022 exams for all secondary schools, sixth forms and colleges. This is the first time that data has been published since the start of the pandemic. The Department for Education has been clear that, given the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on different students, schools and colleges, this data should be treated with caution. We are writing to explain the data which has been produced, the changes in how it has been presented, and to provide some context about how the exams this summer were affected.

What data has been published?

The data published last week includes the following:

For secondary schools:

- Our school's Progress 8 figure (the relative progress of our students in eight subjects, compared to students with similar levels of attainment at the end of primary school).
- Our school's Attainment 8 figure (the raw score achieved by our students in the same eight subjects).
- The percentage of our students who entered the Ebacc (a government measure which means students took all of English, maths, sciences, a language, and history or geography GCSE).
- Our school's Ebacc average point score (our students' average score in the same Ebacc subjects).
- The overall figure for how many of our students entered GCSEs.
- How many of our students stay in education or employment after Year 11.
- The percentage of our students achieving a grade 5 or higher in both English and maths GCSEs.

For post-16 settings:

- Our school's average result in BTec qualifications.
- How many of our students stay in education or employment after Year 13.

What's different this year?

The government has made a number of changes to the website where they display school and college results (www.find-school-performance-data.service.gov.uk). These include:

- changing the name of the website from 'Compare school and college performance' to 'Find and check the performance of schools and colleges in England'
- removing the table of all schools' national performance
- removing the ability for users to create their own tables of selected schools and colleges
- removing the red / amber / green ratings on school performance measures

All of this is designed to discourage users from making direct comparisons between schools and colleges this year or comparing this year's data to previous years'.

Why can't data be compared this year?

The government, and the schools' inspectorate Ofsted, acknowledge that the impact of the pandemic was not the same across all schools and colleges. Even within a local area or town, the impact of the pandemic was very different.

Therefore, they are clear that data can only tell us so much and should be used as the basis for a conversation rather than being used to directly compare one school or college with another.

How were results arrived at last year?

In 2020 and 2021, exams were cancelled due to the pandemic, and grades were based on teacher assessments (with exam boards ensuring consistency). This different form of assessment led to grades, overall, being higher in 2020 and 2021 than they were in pre-pandemic years, when students sat exams.

Last summer saw the first return of exams since 2019, albeit with significant adaptations to recognise that students' learning had been significantly affected by the pandemic. Nationally, it was determined that grades would, overall, fall roughly halfway between 2019 and 2021. This would enable grades to gradually move back to pre-pandemic levels, while still being as fair as possible to students taking exams in 2022.

The national data that we are compared to reflects this and is higher than in pre-pandemic years.

Why are there no progress figures for post-16?

Normally, the Department for Education publishes progress figures for A levels and for post-16 students retaking English and maths GCSE. However, because the 2022 cohort received centre-assessed grades in 2020, and the government committed to not using these for accountability purposes, no progress data has been produced for last summer.

How will our results be used?

The publication of results does not directly impact students at all. Students already received their own GCSE and BTec results in August. These results will be used by the government and by Ofsted if we have an inspection, with the context in which they were achieved taken into account.

How do our results compare to local schools?

As explained above, the ability to rank schools is no longer available, as the government is clear that schools cannot be compared this year. One of the measures included in the government website mentioned above is our Progress 8 figure, which is a relative measure based on students' progress from primary school in eight subjects. A score of 0 means the school adds an average amount of progress to students. A score between 0 and 1 means the school adds an above average amount of progress to students. A score between 0 and -1 means the school adds a below average amount of progress to students. You will also be able to look at the local authority average for all the key measures, but not be able to directly compare schools.

I hope this explanation is helpful in enabling you to understand this year's performance data for our school/college.

Thank-you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Miss L Proctor
Principal