

Date: 6th December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: End of Term Arrangements - 2019

The end of the autumn term will very soon be upon us and with it the long awaited Christmas holidays! We have had a successful term at Airedale Academy. We welcomed our new Year 7 and Year 12 students, who have made a fantastic start. There has been lots of hard work from our students and staff, trips and visits and a shared commitment towards our drive to achieve the very best for our students and for our community. Your continued support for maintaining our high standards around uniform, behaviour and attendance is very much appreciated.

My autumn newsletter will be on our website and available via our Facebook page at www.airedaleacademy.co.uk during the last week of term. Please take the time to read this as it is full of useful information and key dates for the forthcoming year. You will also notice on the website our push to achieve the best attendance ever on the run up to the holidays. Staff and students are acutely aware that this time is all about being in school, enjoying lessons as normal but more importantly, ensuring that students are at school on the very last day to enjoy the festivities, Christmas jumpers and our special assemblies.

The academy will close to students at 12 05pm on Friday 20th December 2019, any students wishing to have their lunch at 12 05pm will be able to do so before leaving the school site. If the early closure time presents any difficulties, then please do not hesitate to contact the academy and we will organise alternative supervision for your child/children. For Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 20th December 2019, after the amazing and overwhelming support our students and families displayed last year, we have chosen to again to support the Castleford Mission which is based at the Trinity Methodist Church in Castleford. The charity provides a safe place for the homeless; this includes clean clothing, hot meals, somewhere to wash, as well as to give support and advice. In addition, the charity supports families and individuals who are in financial need, through the service of a Food Bank.

On Christmas Jumper Day, rather than bringing in the usual 50p or £1 donation, as last year we are asking our students to bring in a non-perishable food item such as a bag of pasta, or an item such as shampoo or toothpaste, which will be collected by Form Tutors in the last week of term. Volunteers from Castleford Mission will come into our end of term assemblies to give us their thanks and also to explain how these Christmas gifts will be used. We hope that this approach will show our students the importance of giving at Christmas, especially to those who are in need. Students may come to school in non-uniform, but they must come in Christmas colours, Christmas jumpers or tops, no fancy dress is allowed.

Spring Term 2019 – Key Information

The academy reopens to students on Tuesday 7th January 2020. The Monday will be taken as an Inset Day. It is vital that your son/daughter attends for the remainder of that week so that we don't undo all the hard work done to date. We really do appreciate your support with this.

Bad Weather

As the weather becomes a lot colder with the likelihood of snow and ice, can I please remind parents/carers that should students need to walk to school in boots or similar, they then need to change their footwear once in school. In the unlikely event that the school should need to close due to snow, parents/carers will be informed as soon as possible via text/website and our Facebook page. It is therefore vital that school has your up to date contact details.

Outdoor Coats -

We want all of our students to arrive at school warm and dry and ready to learn. As the weather takes a turn for the worse during the winter months, may I remind you of our high standards and expectations around uniform. Our students look incredibly smart, but the wearing of hoodies spoils the appearance of some of our students. A polite reminder that hoodies of any sort (zip front or pull over) are not allowed in school. Coats can of course be worn over uniform but must be removed when indoors.

I would like to thank parents and carers for their support during my first term as Principal; I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and holiday season. We look forward to welcoming students back in the New Year.

Yours sincerely

Miss L Proctor
Principal