

10 May 2019

Dear parents/carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you to update you on several matters before we break for the half term.

Ofsted

Just before the Easter break we were visited by Ofsted for another 'check up' inspection. This again went well and it was clear to inspectors we were making good progress towards the removal of 'special measures'. I was pleased to read comments such as 'pupils conduct themselves well in lessons and around the school.' There is a 'culture of learning in school.' The school 'is on firm footing for further improvement.' The 'attainment and progress [of students], are both improving.' This has been possible due to the hard work and dedication of staff and students.

Study Leave for Year 11 and Year 13

As the examination period is now about to begin, it is important for students to have time to revise. Both Year 11 and Year 13 will have their last formal day of timetabled lessons on Thursday 23 May. Year 11 will finish at the slightly earlier time of 12.45pm, after a final assembly. Year 13 will finish at 3.10pm. Students are welcome to drop into the Academy for their normal timetabled lessons, if they wish to.

Houses and Vertical Tutoring

After much planning, we are now proceeding with the move to a House system and Vertical Tutoring structure across the Academy. Students will begin in their new tutor groups on **Friday 7 June**. To help with the organisation of this, we will be ending the Academy day slightly earlier each day for the first four days back after half term, at 2.40pm. We will keep one year group back each day until the usual finish time of 3.10pm, to meet their new Head of House, Student Support Officer, Tutor and find their new tutor group rooms. This will work as follows:

Monday 3 June – Year 7 remain behind until 3.10pm. All other year groups finish at 2.40pm.

Tuesday 4 June – Year 8 remain behind until 3.10pm. All other year groups finish at 2.40pm.

Wednesday 5 June – Year 9 remain behind until 3.10pm. All other year groups finish at 2.40pm.

Thursday 6 June – Year 10 remain behind until 3.10pm. All other year groups finish at 2.40pm.

Friday 7 June – students meet for the first time in their new tutor groups and from this point forward.

We have agreed on 4 houses, which will be named after famous people who lived and worked in Plymouth. They are:

Drake House – Named after Sir Francis Drake, the famous sailor and explorer, based in Plymouth.

Weston House – Named after Dame Agnes Weston, a charity worker who devoted her life to helping sailors in the Royal Navy. Much of her work took place in Devonport.

Scott House – Named after the famous explorer and Royal Navy officer, Captain Robert Scott born in Plymouth.

Astor House – Named after Nancy Astor, the first female MP to take her seat in the House of Commons. She represented the Plymouth Sutton constituency.

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Academy Day

In order to prepare for the new academic year, my staff need time to plan for the changes to the curriculum and Academy structure. To this extent, governors have agreed that we can have an extra training day for staff. This means that on **Friday 14 June, the Academy will be closed to all students.** Students should work at home on their Knowledge Organisers and self-quizzing. Thank you for your support here. Students in **Year 11 and Year 13 with exams on this day should come in as normal.**

Mobile Phones

I wrote to you in February to consult on students no longer using mobile phones in the Academy during social times (they are already not used during lessons/lesson changeovers). Following feedback from parents, students, staff and governors we are going to proceed with this from 3 June 2019 (straight after the May half term). Students are free to keep phones turned off/on silent in their bags during the day, so that they are able to use these afterschool for contact home. The full policy on this can be found on our website (www.asap.org.uk), under the about us and policies tab. Students will be informed during their assembly time in the final week of this half term.

Bikes

Since Christmas, we moved the bike racks, inside the Academy gates. This was so students could leave their bikes more securely. Please can you remind your child to continue to use this facility with their own personal lock and not leave them outside of the Academy gates. We recently had a student leave their bike outside the Academy gates and it was stolen.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support with your child's education here at the Academy. I will write to you again towards the end of the summer term to confirm arrangements for the new academic year.

My very best wishes,



Lee Sargeant
Headteacher