



Northern Ambition Academies Trust

Crewe Road, Airedale, Castleford WF10 3JU – Tel: 01977 664555 – Fax: 01977 664556

Date: 12/06/2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well.

Reopening of Airedale Academy to Y10 and Y12 - Monday 15th June

We are now set to welcome back Y10 and Y12 students to school on Monday and are so looking forward to seeing them all again. Comprehensive Risk Assessments are in place to ensure the safety of all students and staff, leaving myself and our Trust Board confident that we have everything in place that we need to have.

Home Learning

As you will be aware, the Government announced that the plan for all primary children to have a month back in school before the summer holidays has now been dropped. We are however in discussion as to how we could ensure some form of face to face contact with all of our primary children before the summer break. When in a position to do so, we will share our thoughts with you. For now, it will mean that the main vehicle for learning will continue to be online, remote provision for all pupils. We continue to work hard to produce quality materials and are currently in the process of planning to enhance this online provision through online lessons. As soon as we are in a position to share details with you, we will.

I'd like to thank you again for your support at home with this. We realise that supporting your child/children with their home learning is not easy but we really do encourage this and urge all pupils to embrace their learning in order to maintain and enhance the progress they have made in school to date. We will of course continue to celebrate the excellent work being completed by many.

Year 6 Transition to Airedale Academy

Unfortunately the most recent Government guidance does not allow Y6 pupils to visit their secondary school to experience the usual very extensive transition programme we would have on offer. This is really disappointing, but as we have done throughout the pandemic, we will continue to do our very best to ensure that transition for Y6 children to Airedale Academy is as smooth as possible. We appreciate how important this time is for you and your child. The key team of staff leading on transition at Airedale Academy has planned a range of activities to inform and reassure parents, carers and pupils. I am delighted that over 100 people watched the live webinar this morning, delivered by Ms Proctor and Mr Podlewski. We hope that those of you who watched, now feel more informed and have some questions answered, but as Ms Proctor has said, please do contact the school if you have any queries.

Centre Assessed Grades (GCSE and BTEC)

Teacher grades have now been submitted to the exam boards for GCSE and Vocational courses. The exam boards will combine these grades with other relevant data and will use this information to produce a final grade for each student. I have outlined in previous correspondence that we must now await these grades and will be able to share with students on the calendared results days.

A polite reminder that schools are not allowed, under any circumstances, to share predicted grades with students or parents prior to results day. Please can I ask that you respect this and do not contact school to request this information.

Summer Holidays

Friday 17th July is the last day of the summer term for pupils (but please note that the 17th July is calendared as an INSET day for Airedale Academy and will be used for essential staff updates and training). We have yet to receive any guidance or information as to what the expectation of schools will be over the summer break, and whether or not we should remain open for Key Worker and Vulnerable children. I would therefore urge parents and carers to make childcare arrangements where necessary, **as there are currently no plans for any of our schools to be open over the summer break as they were over the Easter and May half term.**

September 2020 – Autumn Term

I'm afraid I have nothing to report on what the autumn term will look like but, as promised, I will share all information with you as I receive it. However, it is important you know that the Trust will be working towards bringing all children back to school at the earliest opportunity. As soon as we can, we will!

I appreciate that for those parents and carers of children due to take final assessments/examinations in 2021, you will feel particularly anxious as your children have experienced considerable disruption to their education this year. I want to reassure you that we are 100% committed to doing all we can to minimise the effects of this. Again, as soon as I receive any further guidance as to what this may look like, I will share it with you.

Easing of Lockdown restrictions

As we see an easing of Lockdown across the country, I ask all parents and carers to support us by reinforcing the important message with your child/children around the need to socially distance when out and about in the community. They will naturally be keen to meet up with friends for a much needed catch up but I really cannot stress enough the need for them to minimise their risk of contamination as much as possible as we begin to phase back in to school and get back to some form of normality. Thank you.

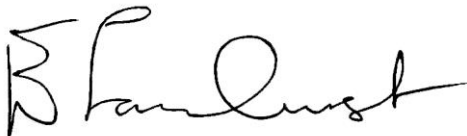
School calendar 2020/21

For those of you who wish to book holidays for next summer and during the academic year 2020/21, please refer to the published calendars on your child's school website. It is vitally important that term time holidays are avoided after such a lengthy period away from school for our pupils.

I will finish by saying once again how splendid it has been to see so many pupils returning to our primary and infants schools over the last couple of weeks. They all have a smile on their face and a real willingness to get back to normal, it's been a pleasure to see. Our numbers have increased over the last 2 weeks as your confidence grows and I really would encourage you to carefully consider sending your child back to school if they are in the eligible year groups. I hope we have reassured you sufficiently that we have done, and will continue to do, all we can to ensure the safety of your children.

Please continue to take care.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Fairhurst', written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth Fairhurst

Chief Executive

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