



20 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory and are bathed in its radiance.

Re: Christmas & January Update

We are finally at the end of what has been an incredibly long term. I am very proud and grateful to all teachers and associate staff in primary and secondary who supported the school during this term. I also very grateful to parents and carers for their support and want to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

1) End of term arrangements

The Academy will be closed to all pupils for the duration of the Christmas holiday and the school day will finish from 12.15pm on Friday 22nd December 2023. It is important all pupils attend school on this day.

2) Start of term arrangements:

The Academy opens to pupils on Monday 8th January. School starts at 8:25am. It is important that pupils arrive on time and in full uniform.

3) Uniform and appearance – preparation for January

Our weekly standard checks indicate that the vast majority of pupils meet our uniform standards. They have been a credit to you and our school. In preparation for January, I want to highlight a few items which you can support us with by purchasing over the break. They would also make good Christmas presents!

1. Footwear:

- Shoes should be plain black leather with a maximum heel height of 5cm and maximum sole thickness of 2cm (heel is measured from the ground to the welt up the back of the heel).
- No coloured logo. Boots are also not allowed.

2. Trousers/skirts:

- Trousers or skirts must be charcoal grey, not black. Skirts should be no shorter than knee length.

3. Socks and tights:

- Tights and socks should be dark grey or black.

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4. Hairstyles and piercings:

- Pupils are not allowed to wear ear, nose, tongue, or other piercings. If they have any visible piercings or retainers these must be removed before the school day;
- The use of a plaster to cover any of these items is also prohibited;
- **Nail varnish and nail or eyelash extensions are not permitted;**
- Hair should be kept neat and tidy, and any hair accessories should be small;
- Extreme hairstyles e.g. unnatural colours or patterns are not allowed;
- **Hair or eyebrows should not be shaved with lines.**

Please be mindful of this expectation as pupils tend to get new hairstyles and piercings over the holidays. Pupils will not access any lessons and will remain in isolation until these issues are corrected.

Punctuality is important. Please be aware that AM registration is at **8.30am** so it is important that pupils are in school for **8.25am**. If, for whatever reason, your child will be arriving late please call Students Services to inform them.

I appreciate your continued support and I hope you have a restful half term.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Bannon
Principal

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