



Padgate Academy
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Principal: Mrs M Barclay BSc (Hons) NPQH

Ref: MBA/MSI

11th December 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

I write to you as the first term of the Academic year draws to close and it is fair to say that it has been a very busy one. We were keen to ensure that when staff and students returned in September, we focused on being 'back to business' and would not let the challenges of Covid-19 deter us from our goal to become one of the best schools in Warrington.

Staff and students have shown incredible **Trust, Teamwork and Tenacity** when faced with changes to the 'normal' at school. I am incredibly proud of the whole Academy community. I would also thank you for the support you have given us in ensuring that students keep focussed on their learning.

You will also be aware that since the beginning of the year we have had a £2 million building project taking place in the Academy. These include a full refurbishment of the main academy building, two new science labs and a refurbishment to the canteen and kitchen.

All the work is now completed, and we are absolutely delighted with the new areas. We have also taken delivery of a brand-new Academy minibus so that we can transport students in style.



Main Block Refurbishment



Main Block Refurbishment



Canteen Refurbishment



Canteen Refurbishment



New Science Labs



New Minibus



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Student Books – Parental Support

You will have noticed that all students now take their exercise books home. The intention behind this is to give students full ownership of their studies. It is important that students go through their books at home to continually revise and review learning as well as completing homework tasks. Please support your child with this and ensure books are well maintained, neatly presented with titles underlined with rulers and sheets stuck in. We advise that you purchase for your child a glue stick, ruler, and different coloured ball pens.

Teamwork

The student leadership team have continued to support a number of charities that were chosen by students. So far this term we have raised:

£92 British Legion Poppy appeal
£50 Odd Sock Day (Anti bullying charity)
£234 Children in Need

Staff and students have also collected food for the ‘Helping Hands’ event supporting local foodbanks. Our final event this term is our annual Christmas jumper day for Save the Children takes place today.

Staff and students have always held a number of Christmas events to welcome the elderly and vulnerable into the Academy. Due to the restrictions in place, we have had to be a little more creative producing over 100 pamper packs and virtual musical performances.



Remembrance Day Poppy Display



Helping Hands Food Collection



Christmas Pamper Packs

All academy news is shared through social media and our website so please do follow us.

Merits and CAS

This term we have seen students demonstrating our 3 core values of Teamwork, Tenacity and Trust in many forms in and out of lessons. Our whole school Merit system of Gold, Silver and Bronze highlights students key learning characteristics and rewards students for displaying these in specific curriculum areas, we have seen an enormous amount of merits awarded this term and look forward to celebrating these during our end of term assembly.

The launch of the CAS (Creativity, Activity and Society) has been positively received by all year groups, students have opted into some exciting enrichment activities such as; trampolining, running club, keyboard and cooking club to name a few. Students are looking forward to signing up to even more activities next term, and our Duke of Edinburgh programme will commence, with a new cohort of students signed up this exciting programme.

Despite all the challenges our rowers continue to amaze us with their talents on the water. We are now running both a year 9/10 crew and a year 8 crew (boys and girls). I expect lots of medals, when circumstances allow us to compete!

Year 7 - Year 10 January Examinations

All students in Y7-Y10 will be sitting end of term examinations when we return in January. These will commence on Friday 8th January and last until Friday 15th January. It is important that students revise for these exams using their exercise books and the guidance issued by each of their subject teachers. If you have any queries please contact your child's Head of Learning.

Year 11

Our year 11 have been working really hard all term to revisit previous understanding and learn new knowledge and skills. The recent Mock Examinations will help teachers identify gaps in learning for their curriculums in January so that students can make further progress. It's been very pleasing to see year 11 students take up the opportunities for our new Study Zones at lunchtime, after school and on Sundays where they can work independently or in small groups to complete homework or revision. We have also introduced after school intervention and tuition for most subjects which, again, has had excellent attendance. The work will not stop with the Christmas holidays: students will have homework to complete over the two weeks in all subjects. Please encourage them to complete this to a high standard to make sure that they are ready for the challenges that the new year will bring.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support.

Face coverings

It is now compulsory for staff and students to wear a face covering in communal areas. We recognise that this adds an additional cost for families and also has a considerable impact on the environment. I have purchased two washable face covering for every student in the Academy and these will be distributed to them when return in January. A face covering will be added to the uniform expectations list. Every student must now arrive to school with their either their school face covering or one of their own. If a student does not have one then we will have a small number available in school to provide students, but they will be issued with a sanction as per the uniform policy. I recognise that a number of students have a medical exemption which means they are unable to wear a face covering and we will continue to support students with this through issuing a 'face covering pass' through their Head of Learning. Thank you for your support with keeping all members of our community safe.

Uniform

As ever we will continue to insist upon the highest standards of uniform. We politely request your continued support in maintaining the school uniform and appearance policy, particularly when it comes to acceptable shoes and hair. A full uniform list can be found on our website here:

<https://padgateacademy.co.uk/uniform-policy> . Please check the website to the suitability of a shoe, hair style or indeed any item of uniform or general presentation. Please can I also make you aware that as of January 2021, hoodies will no longer be allowed to be worn in the academy, full zip version or not. We encourage all students to come to school in a coat, especially during the colder months. Any hoodies will be confiscated by members of staff and returned to students the end of the school day. Please see below for guidance:



SIMS Parent/Student APP

We would like all parents/carers and students to download the SIMS parent/student APP if possible. This is particularly important to track your child's progress, rewards, attendance, timetable as well as their homework tasks. We are really trying hard to improve communication between parents' and school in order to improve your child's education. Please support this by downloading the APP. Details can be found here: <https://padgateacademy.co.uk/sims-parent-%2F-student>



Goodbye

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Mrs Harrigan our Lead Teacher of Designated Provision who is retiring. Mrs Harrigan has worked at Padgate for a number of years and the impact she has had on students both in and out of Designated Provision cannot be put into words. I know that she will be missed by all here at Padgate and we wish her a long and happy retirement.

We also say goodbye to Miss Alley one of our receptionists. We wish her all the very best for the future.

Arrangements for the end of term

School closes at 1.00pm on Friday 18th December 2020 and re-opens on Monday 4th January 2021 at 8.40am.

Finally, can I thank you again for your support this term and, on behalf of all the staff and students I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and send best wishes for the New Year.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Barclay
Principal

