



Padgate Academy

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  padgateacademy

Principal: Mrs M Barclay Bsc (Hons) NPQH

Our ref: MBA/MSI

21st July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the final letter of the academic year. It has again been one which has tested us all as we continue to deal with the challenges we have been presented with during the Covid pandemic.

I very much hope that next year will return to what we more closely recognise as 'normal'. We have spent a lot of time reflecting about what the COVID legacy will be in school, and one of the most palpable things that we will take from it is the sense of community which transcends all areas of the Academy. We have spent some time with students this week looking at what it means to be a Padgate student and how we want to be perceived in the community. You will see #proudtobepadgate as part of the fabric of the Academy in the coming years and the seven new houses that have been created, as something that students benefit from as part of their time here.

Despite everything we have faced, I continue to be amazed at the resilience that all members of the community have shown as we continue our focus on delivering first class teaching and supporting student progress. I extend a huge thank you to you all; your support for us and your child has been incredibly valuable.

I would like to take this opportunity to express a huge thanks to Miss Brown, Miss McArdle, Mrs Siner, Mrs Turner, Mr Walker and Miss Williams. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for all of their hard work and contribution to the Padgate community during their time with us and I wish them all the very best for the future.

We also welcome Mrs Allnatt (Head of MFL) Ms Balmer (Director of Studies - Basics), Mr Crompton (Head of Science), Mr Merrick (Head of English) and Miss Pritchard (Teacher of Humanities) who take up posts with us in September.

Duke of Edinburgh

On Thursday 15th and Friday 16th July, 6 of our year 9 students completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition around Warrington. Due to COVID measures in place, the students were restricted to the Warrington area, but this did not bring the mood down in the group.

On day 1, they set off from the Academy, made their way to Woolston and over the canal to Thelwall. The students were in high spirits setting off and got to their checkpoints throughout the day with ease. They all took a checkpoint of the route and completed their map skills to a high standard. The heat also made it more difficult throughout the day, but the team did so well to get back to school. The students then showed off their camping skills, putting up their tents on the school field; they also cooked their tea on the Trangia's.

Day 2 was even hotter! Students headed out towards Daresbury in the school minibus and picked up the Bridgewater Canal on their checkpoints. They successfully finished at one of the many farms in Stretton and were taken for a well-deserved McDonalds at the end!

All 6 students showed great Teamwork, Tenacity and Trust throughout their expedition. They worked well together, and hopefully they will go on to do their Duke of Edinburgh Silver in year 10!

McFoodBank

Since the pandemic hit last March, Miss McKittrick has organised hundreds of food parcels to be delivered to some of our most vulnerable families. She has now setup a foodbank (the aptly named McFoodBank) within the Academy, which is stocked with food provided by all members of the Padgate community.



Staff have been fantastic in providing extra provisions by putting a few additional food items in their shopping trolley each week, helping to ensure a regular supply of food parcels for when families need them most.

A massive thank you to the staff, students and community for supporting the Academy operated McFoodBank as part of our ongoing charity efforts to make a difference within our local community during these trying times.

We hope our contributions will be of great comfort to the people most in need at this time.

Uniform

Our school rules regarding uniform remain unchanged and **full uniform is expected in September.**

All outdoor coats must be plain black or grey and hoodies will not be permitted under any circumstances; shoes must be plain black leather look, and of course, no training shoes.

Jewellery, including earrings, is not permitted for health and safety reasons and also because it is inappropriate for school wear. Extreme hair colours and styles are not encouraged, and we request your co-operation in this matter. Should any student wish to have a piercing or false nails applied then these need to be done at the start of the summer holiday so they can be removed for their return to the Academy. Further guidance on appropriate footwear and hairstyles for school can be found on our website.

Normal service resumes in P.E. and students no longer need to attend the Academy in their P.E. kit, they can bring it with them and change for the lesson.

Holidays in Term Time

I must draw your attention to important amendments to legislation surrounding holidays in term time.

Since September 2013, **the new law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time.** In the academic year 2011 to 2012, **9.7% of all absences in England were due to parents taking their children out of school during term time.** This high level of absence led the DfE to make this important change to legislation.

This new legislation is designed to bring about increased attendance and improving standards in all schools. Further information can be obtained from www.dfe.gov.uk.

Any applications for leave of absence must be in exceptional circumstances and the Principal must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave.

Parents can be fined by the Local Authority for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school.

As an Academy, we fully appreciate the financial difficulties that some parents face when booking holidays, particularly during school holidays. However, there is an expectation that all schools introduce firm policies and stringent checks to ensure that there is a significant reduction in the number of absences during term time.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Academy to thank you for your full support in this matter by not taking your child out of school during term time.

COVID Home Testing over the Summer Holidays

Students are not required to test during the summer. Their last lateral flow test provided by the Academy should therefore be conducted at home on Thursday 22nd July 2021.

If your child chooses to continue testing over the summer, the academy cannot provide tests, however you can collect a test kit from your local pharmacy or order online here - <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

End of Term

The Academy will **close** for the summer at **12:05 on Friday 23rd July 2021**. I wish your family an enjoyable, restful and safe break. I am sure that your children will return refreshed and eager to continue learning in September.

Start of New Term

Looking forward, it is our intention to re-open in September 2021 with a return to as near normal as possible, whilst following the guidance to schools from the Department of Education and the Public Health Agency. At this point in time there are a number of possible models for the COVID-19 impact over the coming months, however I would ask that you plan for the new term using the following assumptions.

Students will return to the Academy in a staggered manner, as below:

Thursday 2nd September

Year 7 - 08:40am
Year 11 - 11:00am
Year 10 - 1:00pm

Friday 3rd September

Year 8 - 08:40am
Year 9 - 11:00am

As you are aware, when students return to the Academy in September 2021 we are required to offer on-site lateral flow testing for all students, this will be supervised by trained staff. Each student will be offered a lateral flow test on their first day back. A second lateral flow test will then be offered 4 days later.

It is important that we have parental consent for all testing conducted onsite, therefore if you wish for your child to be tested, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/CAGtUMHLzP> to register your consent.

The schedule for testing can be found below:

First Test	Year 07	Year 08	Year 09	Year 10	Year 11
Thursday 2 nd Sept 2021	08:40	-	-	13:00	11:00
Friday 3 rd Sept 2021	-	08:40	10:00	-	-

Second Test	Year 07	Year 08	Year 09	Year 10	Year 11
Monday 6 th Sept 2021	08:40	-	-	14:00	11:00
Tuesday 7 th Sept 2021	-	08:40	11:00	-	-

After the two initial on-site tests, students will be encouraged to continue testing at home twice each week and home testing kits will be provided in the new academic year for all students. Further updates will be provided when students are asked to stop testing, in line with government guidance.

More information regarding COVID-19 testing - <https://padgateacademy.co.uk/coronavirus-testing>

Examination Results

May I remind year 11 that GCSE results can be collected from the Academy on Thursday 12th August **from 9.00am - 11.00noon.**

We wish all our students' good luck with their examination results in the summer, and we look forward to welcoming our students back in September.

Finally, I would like to put on record my thanks to the team here at Padgate. We have indeed, been living through unprecedented times, and the circumstances we have found ourselves in due to the Coronavirus pandemic, have tested us all.

Staff at Padgate have risen to every challenge we have faced and found a way through Trust, Teamwork and Tenacity to overcome them. Their hard work, resilience and absolute focus on ensuring the best for students cannot be overstated.

I thank everyone for their compassion and care, and I am incredibly proud to be the Principal.

I look forward to seeing everyone again in September and leading the Academy in the new Academic year.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Barclay
Principal