



Padgate Academy

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Principal: Mrs M Barclay Bsc (Hons) NPQH

Our ref: MB/MS

20th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the final letter of the academic year. I cannot believe that we have reached the official end of term. It feels like a lifetime ago that we were all together in the Academy.

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you for your support during the last few strange months. We have received many messages of thanks and good wishes and they have meant a great deal to us. We are incredibly grateful for everything you have done to support learning at home.

Over the past 3 weeks the pastoral team have had a meeting with every member of years 7-9. This means that we have had contact with every student before we break up for the summer and we have been able to support students who have needed it. If you need any help or support over the summer then please contact info@padgateacademy.co.uk and a member of staff will make contact with you.

As we come to the end of the year, I want to let you know about some staff changes for September. We say goodbye to Mr Morley, Mrs James and Miss Zarain. 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.

I'm delighted to tell you that we have some new members of staff joining us in September. They are

Miss Brown – Teacher of English
Miss Charnock – Head of English across Padgate Academy and Beamont Collegiate Academy
Mrs Llewellyn – Teacher of Technology
Miss Martindell – Teacher of Music
Miss McCardle – Pastoral Leader Y8
Mr Walker – Head of Modern Foreign Languages.
Miss Williams – Teacher of English

We also have some staff taking on new or promoted roles within the Academy. These are

Mrs Bale – Qualifications and Routines Manager
Mrs Hawley – Senior Teacher for Student Intervention
Mr Johnson – Head of Performing Arts and Extracurricular
Mrs McPoland – Senior Pastoral Leader
Mrs McVeigh – Head of Religious Studies
Mrs Mitchell – Director of Studies
Mr Perry – Head of Science

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Mr Perry – Teacher of Mathematics and Careers Leader
Mr Pollard – Director of Studies.

I would like to wish them all the very best in their new roles.

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.

Holidays in Term Time

I must also 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.** 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.

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.

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.

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

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End of Term/Start of New Term

The Academy will close for the summer at 12.30 on **Thursday July 23rd**. Details for online assemblies on this day will be sent out by your child's Head of Learning.

As you are aware all schools reopen fully to all students in September, we are in the process of a detailed risk assessment with the Trust and Local authority to ensure that we have everything in place to keep staff and students safe. I will write to each year group individually with final details before the end of term. We will also share video clips detailing the plans on the Academy website ahead of the September return.

In accordance with Government guidelines each year group will be kept as a bubble and will be taught in their own building with the exception of practical subjects. Each year group will have their own separate entrance and exit. There will be strict hygiene measures in place which all students will be expected to adhere to. Each bubble will be allocated their own dining space and social area at break and lunchtime. In order to keep staff and students space we need additional time at lunch to allow sufficient time for the areas to be deep cleaned. This means that we need to extend the Academy day for **all students to 3:05pm**. I would also encourage all students to make sure that they bring their own equipment (pen, pencil, ruler and scientific calculator) to the Academy every day.

The Academy will re-open in September on **Wednesday 2nd September** for year 7 only.

All other year groups will return on **Thursday 3rd September** at the following times:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Year 7 | on-site by 8.40am |
| Year 11 | on-site by 11.00am |
| Year 10 | on-site by 11:30am |
| Year 9 | on-site by 12:00pm |
| Year 8 | on-site by 12:30pm |

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

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