

March 2023

Parent Update

Dear Parent / Carer,

As the end of term is approaching, I would like to update you with some important information.

Mobile Phones

Thank you for your support of our new mobile phone policy, which is designed to help students focus on learning, and avoid distractions in the classroom. The strategy of students handing in phones at the beginning of each lesson is now firmly embedded. On the rare occasion that a student has transgressed, there has been a Night School consequence. After the Easter break, any student who does not follow the policy, and is caught using their mobile phone, will be placed on mobile phone report for a one-week period. They will be required to hand in their phone at reception and collect it at the end of the day, whilst on mobile phone report.

Please find attached a useful leaflet on managing device stress and anxiety for parents and students.

Punctuality

Since the introduction of same-day detentions for lateness to the Academy on a morning, there has been a significant improvement in punctuality, with the number of students late per day down to single figures. Parents are reminded that students should be their form class by 0835, which necessitates arriving at the main gate at around 0830. Once again, I thank you for your support with this.

Uniform

Please use the two-week break to ensure that your child has the correct uniform which should reflect 'business dress'. Shoes must be flat, of a type that can be polished, plain, and a sensible style with no distinctive fashion features. Trousers must not be skinny, stretchy or tight. The full uniform policy is available on the website.

Year 10 Work Experience

This will take place from Wednesday 05 July until Friday 07 July. Students have been provided with the required documentation which should be returned to Mrs McDermott (Careers Leader) by Friday 26 May. This is to allow for the required health and safety checks to be undertaken. A placement cannot be confirmed until these checks have taken place.

Year 10 Sunderland College Taster Day

This will take place on Wednesday 21 June. All year 10 students will be invited to attend a taster day at either the City Campus or Bede Sixth Form. Students will choose from a range of taster sessions across all of the subjects offered at the college. More information to follow.

Parents' Evening

We will hold Parents' Evenings for years 9 and 10 after the Easter break. Both will be held entirely online using the School Cloud App. You will be able to make your appointments between 4.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. Look out for a link in your email inbox so that you can create a schedule of appointments with your child's teachers. The Year 9 Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday 18 April and the Year 10 event will be on Wednesday 03 May.

HPS

Our HPS students have taken part in a range of subject masterclasses this half-term. Year 7 have focused on Forensic Science; year 8 have explored Ancient History topics; and year 9 have been part of an International Book Club. In addition, we have begun working with 'Book Clubs in Schools' with all students reading a set text and discussing it each week. Workshops from Oxford University, for year 7 and year 8, were also enjoyed by students, as well as activities in maths and visits to Durham University for some students. Thank you to parents for their support, and engagement of students in attending the 8.00 a.m. sessions. Attendance will continue to be reviewed in order for students to continue to be invited to the HPS sessions. Additional information will be sent to students and parents regarding sessions for next half-term.

Year 11

We are now entering the final phase of exam preparations. A huge amount of work has been completed over the last term to consolidate knowledge and prepare the students as best we can. Over the coming weeks, the students will be given another copy of their exam timetables that will also include the booster sessions for all of their exams. Attendance to the boosters is vital. We also have a range of interventions taking place; inclusion in the target team challenge, residentials, before/after school catch-up sessions, additional revision during registrations and in completed subjects. We are always wary of the stress that this time of the year can cause; please feel free to contact us through enquiries if you require any support.

Year 11 Post-16 Destinations

A monthly email is sent to parents / carers with information on open events, apprenticeship vacancies and the support available to students. If you require any additional support or information on post-16 options and pathways, please contact us through enquiries.



Bringing Items into the Academy

Students are not expected to bring any additional equipment into the Academy to assist in specialist lessons like art, technology and science. Standard equipment is required for all lessons e.g. pen, pencil, ruler. Please could parents ensure that their child does not carry scissors as part of their equipment, these are provided where needed. In addition, plastic pencil sharpeners are not permitted - they must be all metal. We are happy to swap pencil sharpeners from plastic to metal ones.

Vaping

Vaping is not for children and while it can help adults to quit smoking, it isn't risk-free, so those who don't smoke should not vape. A suite of new resources is now available to support schools and colleges across the North East to explain the facts around vaping within the context of reducing the harms from tobacco. The resources can be found here: <https://www.livelifewell.org.uk/vaping-resources/> Please see attached leaflet also.

Anti-social behaviour

As a result of a "hot mapping" exercise it has been identified that an area in Hylton Burn Dene is attracting groups of students from CVEA and other schools to gather before and immediately after school. The large group is causing distress to members of our community through vaping, smoking, engaging in anti-social behaviour and preventing people from walking on the path.

Could you please speak to your children about this and help us disrupt a group from gathering as this is not reflective of the behaviours we encourage at CVEA; working in partnership with parents and carers is paramount in ensuring that the Academy and our students are represented in a positive manner (please read letter attached).

We will be speaking to students about this and will inform parents directly if this behaviour continues after the Easter holidays.

Please have a lovely Easter break.

Yours faithfully,

J. Owens

Mrs J Owens
Principal

