



To All Parents and Carers

18 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We have made an excellent start to the academic year. Things this year have felt much more like a 'normal' school year and it has been fantastic to have students back moving around the corridors. Naturally, we remain subject to any local and national restrictions should these come into force in future, but we will keep you fully informed should anything change.

Year 11 Students (Period 6 and Examinations 2022)

Year 11 is always crucial in the lives of our students and we know that additional quality time can give students the extra push they need in order to achieve even better, which is why we continue to invest our resources in providing Period 6, our daily extra lesson at the end of the school day for Year 11. It is great to see so many Year 11 students working with integrity and aspiration for their futures.

We have recently received information from the government that formal GCSE examinations will take place next summer, however this could be subject to change if infection rates were to rise in the coming winter months. This is the current position of the government and we will, of course, keep all students and families apprised of further developments.

Social Media

As Headteacher of St Anne's Academy I am filled with pride each and every day with the outstanding achievements of our diverse student population. These achievements come in many shapes and forms and are achievements that we are keen to share within our school and across our wider school community.

You will be aware that social media and digital platforms are evolving quickly and have real merit in reaching a wider number of current and prospective families across the local neighbourhood and beyond.

We intend to share the best possible practice in this digital environment, seeking to negotiate it wisely and with integrity for the purpose of information, communication and PR.

We are asking all parents and carers to follow St Anne's Academy on our social media platforms, as follows:

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/StAnnesAcademy>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/StAnnesCEAcademy>

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In terms of benefits, social media allow us, as a school, to:

- Improve communication links with parents and carers
- Promote the successes of the school and our students to a wider audience
- Allow greater engagement with school sport and promote shared values
- Promote literacy and extended learning through the posting of links to relevant material
- Help to maintain links with past Alumni
- Allow for earlier notification of changes to extra-curricular timetable when it is affected by inclement weather

The protocol for usage of our social media accounts is as follows:

- Information regarding special achievements and events will be published as will other Departmental information such as fixtures and results for the PE Department
- Information regarding the school day, such as what the children have been learning or what happened when visitors come to the school
- Photographs of students will only be used if permission has been granted by a parent/carer and a child's name will never be used
- Links to interesting articles will be shared in order to enhance learning opportunities
- No direct messages will be sent via social media and no messages will be replied to
- Political views, comments and opinions will be avoided
- Due care and consideration will be taken before sending any tweet
- In the interests of safeguarding, all accounts will be overseen by the School's Senior Leadership Team and specifically the Safeguarding Officer

New Catering Service

As mentioned previously, we have a new external catering service provider this year, Cucina, who are managing all aspects of our catering provision within school. Feedback received from students in relation to the Cucina pricing structure introduced at the start of term was that some prices were too high. We have met with the Cucina team and changes have been made, for example, the meal deal was restored to include 3 items rather than 2, more affordable items have been put on sale for break time and some premium cost items have been removed from the menu. We continue to meet regularly with Cucina to ensure that the catering provision meets the needs of our community.

Extra-curricular Activities

This year we can offer a full extra-curricular programme after school. Many students have been attending these clubs and I encourage you to speak to your child about taking up one or more of these enrichment activities.

End of the day parking and collection

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers that if you are picking up your child at the end of the day please only park in the allotted bays in the car park outside the school gates. There have been instances recently where people have parked on the side of the road causing obstruction to other vehicles and making it dangerous for St Anne's students to cross the road.

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Christmas Rewards

We are looking forward to inviting eligible students to attend the end of term reward events in December. To be eligible to participate, students will need to achieve the following criteria during the 5 week qualifying period between Tuesday 2nd November and Friday 3rd December 2021:

- 100% attendance
- no lates, and
- a positive behaviour record with no C3 or C4 behaviour incidents.

Reasonable adjustments will be made for students who need them to ensure this is achievable for all. Attendance, punctuality and behaviour will continue to be monitored throughout the year and will inform who is invited for future reward events, so it is essential that your child attends school on time every day and behaves positively every lesson.

Covid Testing

In accordance with government guidelines, students and staff are encouraged to continue to undertake regular lateral flow tests to help identify positive cases where these occur. Further Covid test packs are available at school before we close for the half term break on Friday 22 October 2021.

Please continue to test your child during half term and on the evening of Monday 1 November before school reopens on Tuesday 2 November 2021, as a precaution. Thank you for continuing to support our efforts to minimise the risk of Covid transmission within school.

I look forward to seeing our students safely back at school and ready to learn on Tuesday 2 November 2021 at 08:25.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Heyes
Headteacher

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