

*Be inspired and achieve together*

December 20<sup>th</sup> 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

Last week we emailed all our parents and carers a link to our Autumn Term Newsletter which is packed with a range of positive stories, news and information about what has been happening at Arnold Hill Academy this term. If you haven't already read it then I encourage you to visit our website and go to 'Information – News – Letterbox' to find our Christmas Newsletter and catch up on what has been going on.

Please make a note in your diary to show that students return to school on Thursday 5th January 2017, with Wednesday 4th January being an INSET day for staff.

#### **"Grease" Production**

Our last full week of 2016 has been an incredibly busy and positive end to the term with so many members of our community coming into school to support and enjoy watching students perform in our production of "Grease". If your child took part or supported the production in anyway then we want you to be aware that we have had nothing but positive feedback from the 1000+ people who watched the production last week or visited from Arno Vale and Ernehale Schools. The children were an absolute credit to their families and our Academy.

#### **Message for those driving children to or from school**

If you deliver or collect your child from school in a car then I need to draw your attention to increasing concerns that we have regarding a small number of parents/carers who use their car to deliver or collect their children from school but are not driving their car safely when near our school. Unfortunately we have received a number of complaints from students, parents and local residents, regarding car drivers who stop on zig-zag lines, park up on the pedestrian pavement or stop suddenly in the road or near the zebra crossing to collect or deliver children.

The police have also shared their concerns with us and I ask for anyone who drives their child to or from school to please ensure they are considerate at all times to pedestrians, local residents and other drivers and only stop or park in safe and appropriate places. The safety of our students, your children, is paramount. If we continue to hear of concerns for the safety of our students, particularly at the end of the day, then we will have to consider not allowing cars onto our site until after 3:30 p.m. when the students who are walking home have all left the site.

#### **Curriculum Improvements**

With the changes that are being implemented nationally to GCSE courses it is timely that we consider the content and scope of our curriculum and how, most importantly, it prepares our students for these more demanding GCSE courses. The new GCSEs are much more demanding than the previous courses and examinations. The removal of coursework places significant emphasis on students performing well in their final exam at the end of their course. In order to give our students the best chance of success we are looking to introduce the following changes from September 2017:

Arnold Hill Academy is part of the Trent Academies Group.

The registered office is Trent Academies Group, Rushcliffe School, Boundary Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7BW  
The company's registered number is 8128513

- Current Year 7 when they become Year 8: Students will select their Key Stage 4 (KS4) options during Year 8 to start their KS4 curriculum at the start of Year 9 in Sept 2018.
- Current Year 8 when they become Year 9: Students will select their KS4 options during this year to start their KS4 curriculum at the start of Year 9 in Sept 2017. Students will receive guidance and support over the coming term in making their choices with an options open evening taking place in March. Students will follow a core curriculum including English, English Literature, Maths, Core PE and Combined Science and will then select three further subjects to follow as their options in Year 9.
- Current Year 9 when they become Year 10: Students will receive guidance and support over the coming term in making their choices with an options open evening taking place in February. Students will follow a core curriculum including English, English Literature, Maths, Core PE and Combined Science and will then select three further subjects to follow as their options in Year 9.

### **School Uniform**

As your children grow throughout the year and you find yourself having to purchase new uniform please ensure that before you buy any replacement uniform you first check our school website, go to the 'Parents' section then check our Uniform Policy to ensure that you purchase the correct items and that they follow our policy. High standards in the wearing of uniform and high standards in student behaviour contribute to students achieving high standards in their school work. We appreciate your support in ensuring your child arrives at school in appropriate uniform that is also worn correctly.

### **Punctuality**

We are keen to reduce even further the small number of students arriving late to school in the morning. We understand there will be the odd time when late arrival is unavoidable. However, we expect our students to arrive in good time to school every day. Can you please take time to remind your child of the importance of, not just leaving home in good time, but also ensuring they make good time in travelling to school and do not delay themselves unnecessarily. As with uniform and behaviour, good time keeping is a key measure of an individual and also an indicator of an individual's attitude towards work and education.

### **Student Behaviour in the Community**

When our students, your children, travel to and from school they are very much representing us as an Academy. Our students are easily identifiable from their uniform and any poor behaviour on public transport or simply when walking between home and school is followed up quickly by us. Local residents contact the Academy to tell us of both exemplary and poor student behaviour; can you please speak with your child over the holidays and remind them of the need for them to behave well, every day, when travelling to and from school.

### **Top 100 Assemblies**

Our last full week of 2016 also finished on a high note because we delivered our "Top 100" Assemblies to Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 where we recognise and celebrate the efforts of our students, in particular this term, celebrating their attendance, punctuality and achievements recognised throughout school. It was great to see each year group celebrating the excellent efforts of so many students and was a real pleasure for myself and the Pastoral staff to say 'well done' to so many hard working young people.

I hope this information has been of use to you and you can support us further by talking with your child on some of these matters. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Robertson', with a small flourish at the end.

Matt Robertson  
**Head of Academy**