

Dear Parents and Carers

One lasting memory of our late Queen was that she had been a constant force during times that had seen much change. The Chair of Governors writes this month about yet another tumultuous month of political change, and it is at these difficult times I am reminded that the Academy is one constant in our student lives. I realise how hard it is for students when teachers move on or classes change but the Academy will always be somewhere they can go to every day for a routine they are familiar with, and that we hope is a loving and caring environment.

As the cost of living increases we have thought long and hard about what we can do to support our families. We know it will get harder as we enter this time of year when the heating and lighting needs to go on earlier. If you are interested in any of the support below please email us at: keepingthebillsdown@asadunstable.org letting us know your child's name and year group and which option(s) you think would be of benefit. We hope in some small way this will help those parents/carers who are genuinely worried about how they will make ends meet with mounting costs.

Breakfast and Homework Clubs

We already have a breakfast club that the students can attend in the morning and currently 30 students attend every morning for cereal or toast provided by the Magic Breakfast Company. You will know we have relaunched our approach to homework this year and we would like to offer an after school homework club that students can attend Monday to Thursday after school until 4pm. Snacks and a hot drink will be offered. Neither of these will cost our parents/carers anything and the students will have a chance to study, be warm and fed and at the same time recharge their iPads before going home.

Essential Provisions

At times we know it can be hard to keep on top of the bare essentials and the Academy can provide **pink bags** (period products) and we are introducing **hygiene packs** (deodorant/toothpaste/ shower gel). We know students are often too embarrassed to collect these products but please write to us if you think your child would benefit and we will find a discrete way of distribution.

Uniform Shop

We also have our own uniform shop where parents/carers are welcome to come and have a look before buying new uniform. As always, if you find yourself in difficulty buying new uniform, please ask as we have a hardship fund that can be utilised.

As the clocks have just gone back it means darker nights are drawing in so please ensure students come to school with a coat that can then be put in their lockers for the rest of the day. Hoodies are not allowed and will be removed from students as soon as they enter the Academy site.

Take care everyone as we enter this challenging period.

Liz Furber
Executive Principal


Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you were able to enjoy the half-term break, especially the exceptionally mild weather. I wrote last month that I had never known quite such a turbulent September. It seems that I can now write the same about October, having seen the fall of a government that didn't last even half a term. As I write this (and who's to say it won't change), we are now seeing the ninth Secretary of State for Education take up their post since the Principal and I took up our current positions seven years ago. None of them has lasted long enough to see through a whole cohort of students and, as far as I can tell, the only 'qualification' that any of those nine have had to run the department is that they all went to school ... just like 99% of the population has done. As an Academy, we have several concerns about education policy, but the most pressing one at the moment is around funding, with increasing energy and supplies costs and a pending pay award of at least 5%, none of which is being funded by the government. I have already written to our local MP, Andrew Selous (who has actually held his seat for 21 years - equivalent of three cohorts of students, and has himself been a school governor), asking him to impress upon the new Secretary of State the need for adequate funding for all schools, especially after the turbulence of the pandemic period when students missed out on long periods of direct contact with teachers and the opportunities that might normally be available to them. I had hoped to write this message after the Chancellor's autumn statement on 31st October, but that has been put back until mid-November.

We can live in hope that there will be something positive to report on this front in my next article ... but I am not holding my breath!

David Fraser
Chair of Governors

Access to School Site

Please can all parents/carers be aware that there is no vehicle access onto or off of the Academy site from  8.15am to 8.45am and from 2.45pm to 3.15pm

Locker Keys

A new locker is allocated to every student at the start of a new academic year, free of charge. We are now finding a number of students are either forgetting or have lost their key. While Student Reception is happy to look after items if a student is waiting for a replacement key or a repair to their locker, they are unable to look after items for students who have forgotten their key. Replacement keys can be purchased for £2.80, either by cash at Student Reception or online through the ParentPay app.

Medication

Simple pain relief medication such as paracetamol or ibuprofen can easily



be left at school in the Medical Room. Keeping such items at school allows our first aid trained staff to dispense tablets for minor ailments such as headaches without delay. Students should not carry these items on their person; forms for parents/carers to sign can be collected from Main Reception or Student Reception. The only medication students should carry with them is asthma inhalers and epi-pens.

Looking Ahead

Monday 7th November
Year 11/13 Mocks (2 weeks)

Tuesday 15th November
Year 7 Careers Day

Tuesday 22nd November
Year 9 Careers Day

Wednesday 7th December
Christmas Showcase

Friday 9th December
House Charity Day

Wednesday 14th December
Year 11/12/13
Parents' Evening

Friday 16th December
Last Day of Term

Drinks Bottles

It is important that students remain hydrated throughout the day and we ask that all students bring in a re-usable drinks bottle to school every day or have funds available on their cashless cards for drinks from the canteen as we are unable to provide cups to students for drinks of water. There are water coolers throughout the Academy that students can use to refill bottles at break and lunch. The Academy sells re-useable water bottles and these can be purchased from Student Reception for £1.



HPV Vaccination Year 8 Missed Vaccination

Dear Parent/Carer,

If your child is in year 8 and missed their HPV Vaccination when the team were in the school, please note the Immunisation team will be running catch up sessions where your child can receive the vaccination.

See below details of local Catch up clinics. Please note these are drop in clinics and NO APPOINTMENTS are needed. The clinics will be held on the dates below between: 10am – 2pm

Tuesday 25th October	Bedford, Stagsden Village Hall, MK43 8SQ
Wednesday 26th October	Biggleswade, The Orchard Community Centre SG18 8SZ
Thursday 27th October	Luton – Wiggmore Church & Community Centre LU2 9TE

HPV (Human Papillomavirus) causes around 9,000 cancers each year in the UK, most of which can be prevented by having the HPV vaccine. HPV is responsible globally for 5% of all cancers.

Why should your child have the HPV vaccination?

- The vaccine protects against six types of cancer caused by the HPV viruses, such as cervical cancer, some mouth and throat cancers and cancer of the anus and genital areas.
- The vaccine protects against nine different types of HPV. Two of these types cause 70% of cervical cancers and are present in 60% of head and neck cancers.
- The vaccine is more effective in preventing cancers associated with HPV if given at a younger age which is why it is offered to people aged 12-13.
- The HPV vaccine has been shown to prevent hundreds of deaths from cervical cancer every year. It is expected that more deaths will be prevented as boys receive the vaccine in addition to girls.
- You do not have to have sexual contact with a lot of people to get HPV. You can get HPV the first time you're sexually active.

Two doses will generally be offered in year 8, around 6 months apart. For maximum protection, your child must receive both doses of the HPV vaccine. The vaccine is FREE on the NHS.

~ Homework Club ~
Monday to Thursday each week
3pm to 4pm
In the Canteen

Academic Calendar - 2022/2023

School Holiday	Bank Holiday	Pupil Day	Training Day
September 2022	October 2022	November 2022	December 2022
Mon 5 12 19 26	Mon 3 10 17 24 31	Mon 7 14 21 28	Mon 5 12 19 26
Tue 6 13 20 27	Tue 4 11 18 25	Tue 8 15 22 29	Tue 6 13 20 27
Wed 7 14 21 28	Wed 5 12 19 26	Wed 9 16 23 30	Wed 7 14 21 28
Thu 1 8 15 22 29	Thu 6 13 20 27	Thu 3 10 17 24	Thu 1 8 15 22 29
Fri 2 9 16 23 30	Fri 7 14 21 28	Fri 4 11 18 25	Fri 2 9 16 23 30
Sat 3 10 17 24	Sat 1 8 15 22 29	Sat 5 12 19 26	Sat 3 10 17 24 31
Sun 4 11 18 25	Sun 2 9 16 23 30	Sun 6 13 20 27	Sun 4 11 18 25
January 2023	February 2023	March 2023	April 2023
Mon 2 9 16 23 30	Mon 6 13 20 27	Mon 6 13 20 27	Mon 3 10 17 24
Tue 3 10 17 24 31	Tue 7 14 21 28	Tue 7 14 21 28	Tue 4 11 18 25
Wed 4 11 18 25	Wed 1 8 15 22	Wed 1 8 15 22 29	Wed 5 12 19 26
Thu 5 12 19 26	Thu 2 9 16 23	Thu 2 9 16 23 30	Thu 6 13 20 27
Fri 6 13 20 27	Fri 3 10 17 24	Fri 3 10 17 24 31	Fri 7 14 21 28
Sat 7 14 21 28	Sat 4 11 18 25	Sat 4 11 18 25	Sat 1 8 15 22 29
Sun 1 8 15 22 29	Sun 5 12 19 26	Sun 5 12 19 26	Sun 2 9 16 23 30
May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023
Mon 1 8 15 22 29	Mon 5 12 19 26	Mon 3 10 17 24 31	Mon 7 14 21 28
Tue 2 9 16 23 30	Tue 6 13 20 27	Tue 4 11 18 25	Tue 1 8 15 22 29
Wed 3 10 17 24 31	Wed 7 14 21 28	Wed 5 12 19 26	Wed 2 9 16 23 30
Thu 4 11 18 25	Thu 1 8 15 22 29	Thu 6 13 20 27	Thu 3 10 17 24 31
Fri 5 12 19 26	Fri 2 9 16 23 30	Fri 7 14 21 28	Fri 4 11 18 25
Sat 6 13 20 27	Sat 3 10 17 24	Sat 1 8 15 22 29	Sat 5 12 19 26
Sun 7 14 21 28	Sun 4 11 18 25	Sun 2 9 16 23 30	Sun 6 13 20 27