



17th December 2020

Dear parent/carer,

Thank you for your ongoing support this year at these difficult times. In comparison to some local schools and the national picture we have weathered the storm well in terms of school closure and burst bubble's with only three incidents affecting students.

In the next few days you will receive via email, your child's end of term report, with their assessment grades and ATL scores. Please can you spend some time discussing this document with your child, setting goals and targets for next term.

Just to remind you that school starts back for students on Wednesday 6th January

All key dates are available on our website

Below are some notes and reminders for the next half term:

Digital Strategy

We will continue to issue chrome books to students in need in the Spring term as part of our digital strategy. If you are contacted by the school please complete the relevant paperwork so that you can take advantage of scheme and collect a computer. I am sure that you will agree that given the current situation, students need to be able to access their learning from home. On the website under **digital learning** you can learn more about our use of MS Teams.

Uniform

Expectations regarding uniform remain high and students should fully adhere to the policy without exception. The uniform list is on our website but I do want to draw your attention to some key points: Firstly, all students should wear proper shoes to school and there should be no trainers of any description. This includes Nike Airforce, Dr Marten boots, Kickers with coloured laces and canvas or leather Vans. If a student chooses to wear a skirt, it must be the APA logo skirt.

All students in years 7-10 will be expected to use the APA school bag. There are to be no leather or denim jackets and no hoodies worn over or under blazers. In the cold weather after Christmas, it is important that children wear a warm coat to school that they can use at break and lunch when they are outside. Oversize scarfs are not to be worn as an alternative to a coat. In addition, if your child wishes to wear earrings they must be one small pair of either gold or silver studs and no diamonte. Please note that facial piercings and extreme haircuts are not allowed.

Please look at the uniform policy on our website carefully if you are planning on making any purchases as I obviously do not want parents to spend money buying the wrong items.





Please note that students who do not adhere to the policy will either be sent home to change, isolated or have the offending items confiscated.

I have attached a copy of the policy which provides further detail

Food and Drink in School

I would like to remind you that we do not want students bringing sweets, fizzy drinks and large cartons of juice into the academy. Students can purchase as part of their break or lunch an appropriately sized carton of juice along with sweet and savoury snacks (such as muffins, sausage rolls and patties). It is not good for students to be consuming large amounts of sugar during the school day as this does not help with their focus and concentration in lessons. Please send your child into school with a refillable water bottle that they can fill up from the water fountains.

Phones and Social Media

A reminder that we operate a not seen, not heard phone policy. This works well for the academy ensuring that everyone has access to a phone to and from school but is not distracted by phones in school.

Recently there has been some issues around social media. Please can I remind you to monitor your child's phone and ensure that they are accessing appropriate material and using social apps responsibly.

Vodafone have written a useful digital parenting handbook with lots of good advice and tips which can be found at

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting/resources-category>

I look forward to continuing to working with you and your child throughout the rest of this academic year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best wishes,

Ms A Downey
PRINCIPAL

Ark Putney Academy



Preparing every student to be a pillar in any community