



Ref: CLY/AKW

16 October 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

As the first half term draws to a close, I would like to pass on my thanks for your continued support through these ongoing challenging times. I would like to take this opportunity to update all parents/carers regarding the current situation at Tollbar Academy.

A reminder of the day to day arrangements

In order to continue to adhere to the Government Guidance, students will remain in their Academic Band. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be taught with the same group of students, in the same classroom for all of their lessons except for ICT and Music when they will be taught in a specialist room. Students in Years 10 and 11 will be taught with the same group of students for English, Mathematics and Science in the same room. In order for students to complete their GCSE option subjects, they will move rooms and work with other students in their option groups to enable them to have access resources and specialist teaching staff. All students will continue to take part in Physical Education lessons which is vital to help support their health and well-being.

It is essential that students adhere to the safety procedures; maintaining social distancing where possible, washing and sanitising their hands routinely.

Now students have had time to get used to the new 'normal', any disregard, for Covid-19 regulations that directly impacts upon the health and wellbeing of other will be severely sanctioned.

Face Coverings

Government Guidance released on 1 September 2020 advised that face coverings are not recommended or necessary in education settings. However, as an additional safety measure and visual reminder to students of the current climate, we **strongly recommend students wear face coverings in communal areas** around the Academy unless they are exempt.

Please can I remind all parents/carers that it is a legal requirement that children aged 11 years and over must wear a face covering when travelling on public transport, unless they are exempt. This must be for the duration of the journey and the bus companies reserve the right to refuse travel to any student who does not follow the strict protocols.

NHS Test and Trace

On the Academy website you will find a letter from Public Health England regarding Covid-19 symptoms and testing information. Please can you read this and ensure you follow the guidance at all times.

Physical Education Lessons

To minimise the risk of Covid-19 transmission the majority of Physical Education lessons are taking place outdoors. Please ensure your child attends the Academy with the correct kit and suitable warm clothing. If students are unable to take part in the lessons they are still required to bring their physical education kit as students will accompany their group outdoors.

Road Safety

Please can I remind parents/carers of the importance of road safety for your child as they are making their way to and from the Academy. There have been a number of concerns raised by the public due to a small number of students not adhering to the Highway Code. Examples include; cycling in the middle of the road, cycling in a line preventing other road users passing, pulling 'wheelies', weaving in between cars and students carrying others on their handle bars of their bike. The safety of all students is our priority, so could I ask all parents/carers to speak to your child regarding these safety concerns. In order to ensure students remain as safe as possible we advise that students wear cycle helmets when travelling on their bike and as the evenings become darker, we recommend students use lights on their bikes and wear reflective clothing.

Uniform

All students are required to adhere to the Academy Uniform Policy. Any student wearing an item of incorrect uniform, including tight stretch material trousers, cropped trousers, two-tone or vivid hair colours, facial piercings and more than one stud earring in each ear or wearing makeup (except Year 11), will be placed in the year group Inclusion Unit until the issue is resolved.

The uniform policy can be found on the Academy website and on Page 15 of the student planner. <https://www.tollbaracademy.co.uk/academy-uniform/>

As winter approaches I would encourage students to have a suitable outdoor coat. In line with the current Government Guidance, students will be outside at break and lunchtimes as much as possible.

Mobile Phones

Can I please remind parents/carers that mobile phones or other electronic communication items are not permitted in the Academy, this includes smart watches.

Sports Clubs

In the next half term, the PE department will be running football and netball clubs afterschool for designated year groups. This information will be shared during registration and can also be found on the Academy website.

The Fitness Suite will be opening on a Friday evening after school for Year 11 students.

Personal Development

The Careers and Personal Development Curriculum incorporates key topics which have arisen since the national lockdown. As such there is a focus in all year groups on both mental and physical wellbeing, which includes mental health, drug misuse and relationship education. Additionally, in Year 7, students will revisit content from their final year of Key Stage 2 in order to ensure depth of knowledge. Now more than ever it is important that all students explore the units of work 'Living in The Wider World'.

These include a focus on careers, the world of work, choosing appropriate courses both at GCSE and Further Education level, transition into work, finance and topical subjects such as knife crime and gambling. We hope that this broad curriculum will support your child and they will be well prepared for the future.

Station Road
New Waltham
Grimsby
North East Lincolnshire
DN36 4RZ

T. 01472 500505
F. 01472 500506
E. enquiries@tollbaracademy.co.uk
www.tollbaracademy.co.uk

Chief Executive: David J Hampson, OBE

Principal: Caroline Yates

Assessment

Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions we have been conducting our internal assessments differently this term. Students in all years will complete classroom-based assessment. The assessment data collected will be shared with parents/carers before the end of the Autumn term.

Initial Year 7 assessments have taken place in core subjects. This data will be used to help set students more effectively as we move forward. There will be further communication with parents/carers to inform you of this process.

Our Year 7 Assessment Evening will be held virtually this year. It will consist of a presentation and an information video; all year 7 parents will be contacted when this is available on our website.

Year 11 assessments will resume after the holidays. Throughout this academic year, assessments for the Year 11 cohort will take place under examination conditions to ensure the accuracy of the data. These will recommence the week beginning Monday 02 November 2020. The Year 11 revision session timetable is available on the Academy website. Students will need to book into these sessions with the teachers prior to the session as numbers are restricted due to the current Covid-19 provision. <https://www.tollbaracademy.co.uk/tollbar/media/files/year-11-revision-timetable.pdf>. Revision material is also available on the Academy Virtual Learning Platform, FROG, for all students to access from home.

Covid-19 Safety

Please can I once again thank you all for your understanding and continued support this term. It has been a pleasure to be able to welcome back students on a full-time basis at Tollbar Academy. This would not have been possible without positive parental/carer engagement. Please continue to encourage students under your care, to follow the full range of Government Safety Guidelines over the half term holiday.

Following up to date Government Guidance will be crucial in minimising the risk to the health of students, yourselves and Academy staff and it will enable the Academy to remain open. It is essential that students continue to socially distance, follow the rule of six, frequently wash or sanitise hands and wear face coverings where appropriate. I would appreciate your support in sharing this message with your child.

I wish you all an enjoyable holiday and please continue to stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Mrs C L Yates
Principal

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