



Aston Manor Academy

All different • All equal • All achieving

PHILLIPS STREET, ASTON, BIRMINGHAM B6 4PZ TEL: 0121 359 8108 FAX: 0121 359 2426

EMAIL: enquiry@astonmanoracademy.com

WEBSITE: www.astonmanoracademy.com

HEADTEACHER: JILL SWEENEY



21st October 2020

Dear parents/carers,

It has been with regret that we had to close our doors early this half term, however online learning continues and attendance online so far has been excellent. We are providing online Teams lessons to all students, and request that all students join these. I would like to remind students of the rules around behaviour in online lessons.

Since we have had to close the school we have been made aware of further positive COVID-19 cases within the sixth form bubble, all those who are classed as close contacts have been contacted. I would like to stress the importance of staying at home if you feel unwell. Although the main symptoms of COVID-19 are a persistent cough, high temperature and loss of taste or smell, if you feel unwell in anyway please stay at home until you feel better.

If any student of the school tests positive or is ill with symptoms over the half term break please can you email enquiry@astonmanoracademy.com so that we can continue to monitor the situation and get in touch with any close contacts of the positive case. Public Health England will monitor the situation alongside the school.

The first half term of 2020/21 has been challenging in many ways, but I would like to take the opportunity to thank students and staff for the resilience they have shown in the first 7 weeks of the academic year. Year 7 and Year 12 have made a positive start to the school year, one which has been made more difficult due to the circumstances.

We have all had to get used to the new start and finish times, staff sanitising every pupil before they walk into school, sitting in rows, no assemblies, and the many other adjustments that we have had to make, but everyone has managed exceptionally well. Attendance and behaviour have been excellent, and where students have had to learn online, engagement has been high. Parents evenings have taken place via teams and by phone, and I know that these meetings have been beneficial.

New CEO

Alex Lofthouse has been appointed the new Chief Executive Officer of Equitas Academies Trust. Alex's role will be to work alongside the headteachers of Aston Manor Academy and Chilwell Croft Academy and to develop and grow the trust. Alex is looking forward to meeting with parents and taking your views on how you would like to see the schools continue to improve. A meeting to collect your views will be organised as soon as it is safe to do so.

Free school meals

Please can I remind all parents to check your FSM status, you may be entitled to FSM if your circumstances have changed. Please contact the school office and we will be able to check whether you are eligible.

Visitors to school

I would like to remind all parents that visitors are not allowed in school. Any queries can be dealt with by a phone call or an email to the school. If your visit is absolutely necessary then please call to arrange an appointment.





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Secondary school applications

A reminder from admissions, the deadline for application of a secondary school for Year 7 September 2021 is 31st October, these need to be completed online. Families need to apply online at

<https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

Safety

I would like to remind everyone that as we approach November many shops will be selling fireworks. Please can all students ensure that they are staying safe, and staying away from fireworks. Due to current lockdown restrictions firework events should not be taking place this year. Please take time to carefully read the safety messages from West Midlands Police which are outlined at the bottom of this letter.

Foodbank

During the holidays please be aware that local foodbanks are in operation, please click on the link below to find information from Birmingham foodbank.

<https://birminghamcentral.foodbank.org.uk/>

Moving forward we would like to continue to maintain positive communication with parents, if you need to contact a member of staff, please send them an email, and they will be able to arrange a convenient time to speak to you. Any other enquiries please email the school enquiry email address on enquiry@astonmanoracademy.com

I would like to thank all parents and carers for supporting the school throughout the first half term.

Please stay safe over the half term break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2nd November.

Yours sincerely,

Jill Sweeney
Headteacher





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Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

HAPPY, SAFE HALLOWEEN/BONFIRE NIGHT – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE



With the darker nights fast approaching, it is important that students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of behaviour.

Parents/carers and students should already be aware that as part of our safeguarding arrangements, the school has a two-way information sharing agreement in place with West Midlands Police, and we are active members of the local Police & Schools Panel. This joint-approach helps us to intervene early to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour involving our students, and provide support and up-to-date safety messages.

Sadly, this year's Halloween, Bonfire night and the half term break will look very different due to COVID-19, so please be aware of the legislation and rules in place linked to this. Remember it is now a legal requirement to wear a mask on all public transport and within communal areas such as shops, cafes, restaurants and bars and we must maintain social distancing, ensure we abide by the rule of six, and the bespoke rules for Birmingham regarding entering other people's homes:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/coronavirus_advice | <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

In partnership with the police, we would also like to remind our students about the following: -

- **Anti-social behaviour:** Halloween can be a scary time for people who don't like surprises or callers at their door. Think about how your actions and behaviour affect others; elderly and vulnerable people may be frightened by 'trick or treat' so look out for signs in windows that people do not want callers at their door.
- **Personal Safety:**
 - Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep valuables such as phones out of public view whenever possible.
 - Don't drink alcohol, take illegal drugs or unknown substances; they can have a big impact on your health and safety, behaviour and your ability to do well at school and enjoy other interests and activities. They can also be addictive and have unpredictable side effects, including sudden death!
 - West Midlands Fire Service recommends that you go to an organised display; it's the smart way to stay safe. You'll see a lot more fireworks and it's a lot cheaper. Information about firework safety is available at www.saferfireworks.com
- **Weapons in public places:** carrying a knife will get you a criminal record which can have life-long effects on travel and job prospects. Those who carry knives are also much more likely to be injured by them.
- **Off-road bikes:** These can only be ridden on private land with the landowner's permission. Don't risk your life and future prospects by illegally riding these on the road.
- **Remember the company you keep:** if your friend breaks the law, you may also be held responsible for that crime – even if you weren't the one directly responsible.

Yours sincerely

Head/Principal Name
Headteacher
Aston Manor Academy

Mat Shaer
Chief Superintendent - East NPU West Midlands Police

Stephen Graham
Chief Superintendent - West NPU
West Midlands Police

