



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



15th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of term I would like to thank you for your support in helping your children to learn from home in the most difficult of circumstances. I am hopeful that things will improve in January, however I ask that you ensure that you adhere to the social distancing guidelines over the break to ensure that we do not experience another wave of cases in the new year. Further guidance from the government can be found below.

The staff at Aston Manor have been very complimentary this term on the behaviour and conduct of students in school. Throughout all of the changes that have taken place students have managed these changes responsibly.

End of term arrangements

Friday 18th December will now be a designated staff training day and school will be closed to students, therefore term will finish for students on Thursday 17th December.

We will be having Christmas dinner for students on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th December and will be holding a Christmas jumper/cultural dress day on Thursday 17th December, (no jeans please). We ask for a donation of £1 for "Save the children" charity. Any profits made from Year 11 pupils will be put towards the prom, due to be held in June next year.

IT and social media

Most students have made every effort to attend lessons online and learn when they have been isolating. Please be aware of monitoring your child's use of IT over the holidays, school laptops should be used for learning, laptops are monitored by software that alerts senior staff to inappropriate websites or search terms, and takes screenshots of any inappropriate material. This will continue over the holidays so please stay alert to this and make sure only the user the laptop is assigned to is using the laptop, and protect passwords. We have had an increase in social media incidents in school of late, again please be aware of this over the break, it is helpful to monitor phone use and talk to your child about their use of social media.

Free school meal vouchers

The government's free school meal voucher scheme is now up and running and families should be receiving vouchers to cover the Christmas holidays, if you have not done so already. Please look out for an email from Edenred in your spam or junk messages. It is vitally important that we hold your correct contact details, and email address, so that we can ensure your free school meal vouchers are forwarded to you without delay. If you have any difficulties accessing the scheme, please contact the school.

Food parcels

Please don't forget that if your child is isolating and you are entitled to free school meals, food parcels can be collected from school. Please contact the school office.

January expectations

We will continue with the staggered start and finish times for students and this has been working well. We ask that students wear extra layers of clothes under their uniform if it is cold, as we will have windows open to provide adequate





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ventilation in every classroom. We have installed further hand washing basins and would encourage all students to wash their hands more frequently and this is more effective than using sanitiser alone.

Please can you repeat this message at home. Students will need to ensure they are wearing full school uniform in January, that means no boots, false eyelashes or nails, and no inappropriate hair colours or styles. We ask for your support in this.

Expectations for the wearing of masks in communal areas of the school remain the same and pupils should do what they can to distance from each other as much as possible in their social times.

Some Year 11 students will be preparing for vocational exams in January and PPE's will take place in March. Although we know that Year 11 summer exams will take place 3 weeks later this year, we are expecting exam boards to issue further information at the end of January with regards to the content and expectations of these exams. We will keep you informed of any news when we are updated.

Parentmail app

As part of our ongoing school improvement the school is aiming to become cashless in the coming months. We would like our parents to download the Parentmail app as this will be the only app we will be using for emailing communication to our parents and also the only platform for paying for lunch, trips and other paying items in school.

COVID-19 updates

The government have reduced the number of days isolating if you are a close contact from 14 to 10 days, and have allowed up to 3 households to spend time together over the holidays from 23rd December to 27th December only. School will be contact tracing for the first 6 days following the end of term. Following this track and trace will be responsible for tracing any contacts until we return in January. I ask that if your child is COVID positive in the holidays that you please email enquiry@astonmanoracademy.com so that we are aware of this when we return on Tuesday 5th January.

Please see below for a list of key dates for your calendar

Thursday 17 th December 2020	School finishes at 2.40p.m for the Christmas holidays
Friday 18 th December 2020	Staff Training Day, school closed for all pupils
Monday 4 th January 2021	Staff Training Day, school closed for all pupils
Tuesday 5 th January 2021	School re-opens for all pupils at 8.45a.m

I would like to welcome back Mrs Lander (deputy headteacher) in January following her maternity leave, and would like to wish Ms Prasetyo the best of luck as she leaves us to take up her maternity leave.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you a safe and happy holiday, and a happy new year to all!

Yours sincerely,

J Sweeney
Headteacher

