



Aston Manor Academy

All different • All equal • All achieving

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HEADTEACHER: JILL SWEENEY



Thursday 11th February 2021

Dear parents/carers,

As we approach the end of the half term, I want to thank you for helping your child to learn over the last 6 weeks. It has not been an easy half term but we have been exceptionally pleased with the online attendance and engagements that students have had during lessons.

The pastoral team have been busy keeping in touch with all pupils including those who have not been engaging well with their learning. The curriculum team have been working hard to find new ways of trying to keep learning engaging and exciting for our students. We will be reviewing those aspects of online learning that have worked well in order to further improve the quality of our teaching and learning.

I would like to remind all students to ensure that they have an adequate password on their device and emails to ensure that their accounts cannot be hacked. E-safety remains high priority with children spending so much time online, please ensure that you engage with your children about what they are doing online and on social networking sites. Removing devices from children's bedroom an hour before bedtime helps to ensure a good night's sleep. It is a good idea to begin to start setting a routine ready for when we all return to school. Please take time to look at the following website on keeping children safe online.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>

Pupil Safety

Our local neighbourhood police are pro-active and keep us up to date with their concerns on a regular basis. In light of recent events and to keep your children safe, the police are concerned about children hanging around in local parks and Newtown shopping centre. Please do not allow your child to hang around in these areas. Police are also now issuing £200 fines to anyone breaking COVID guidelines, and they are actively enforcing this in the local area. Please be aware of this and ensure that your child is inside unless there is a legitimate reason to go out including; shopping, collecting medication or for daily exercise. The rules state that you can meet one other person only when outside and socially distanced. Please make sure that your child is aware of these rules.

Well Being

Some of our pupil's struggle with how they are feeling and this even more so now because of the situation we are currently in. Please if you are worried about your child's well being then contact school and ask to speak to Mrs Coleman or look at the following two sites that provide good advice and guidance. Kooth at

<https://www.kooth.com/> or Child Line at <https://www.childline.org.uk/>

Return to school

The government will announce on 22nd February the date for schools returning. They have already made it clear that no schools will return before 8th March and will give schools two weeks' notice prior to opening. I will be writing to you as soon as we are informed of our return date. We will then inform you of any changes to our published school calendar.





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Free School Meals

Free school meal vouchers will be posted to you over the half term break, these will be an eCheque number with validation Codes for you to redeem at the voucher shop exchange website. Edenred vouchers will continue after the half term break.

Exams

In relation to exams this year, a consultation took place with all stakeholders across the country and a decision will be made late February/early March as to how students will be assessed in KS4 and KS5. This is a very stressful time for all of those involved in exams and we will at last have some clarity regarding this. I encourage all students within these year groups to continue to work hard, as all learning is valuable and never wasted. Students have so far been highly motivated with their learning in KS4 and KS5, and I have no doubt that however they will be assessed they are fully prepared for this.

Yours sincerely

Jill Sweeney
Headteacher

