



Ashton Community Science College

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'a school to be proud of'

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15th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

The new academic year has got off to a good start, with our students returning looking smart and ready to learn; thank you for your support in achieving this. As always at the start of the academic year, we have reminded everyone of our school ethos, which is rooted in PROUD. Students have adapted well to the new systems we have introduced to make the school as safe and as productive as possible and where they have fallen short of expectations they have taken responsibility and made necessary changes.

Insight and Synergy

We have moved from the Insight platform to School Synergy for all communication to parents. You should have received a letter explaining to you how to register for Synergy. All communication to parents is sent via School Synergy. This includes letters, information, advertising forthcoming events, student reports and invitations to parents evenings, so it is important that you register. If you are struggling to sign up, or you have not received a letter, please contact school and we will be pleased to help.

ParentPay

At the same time as the School Synergy letter, you should have received a letter explaining how to register for ParentPay. After Friday September 24th, school will no longer accept cash. This has implications particularly for school meals. All school meals can be paid for via ParentPay and there will no longer be the option to add cash via the revaluer in school. If you need any help signing up to ParentPay or would like to discuss how school can assist you in creating an account, please contact us.

Open Evening

Open Evening this year is to be held on Thursday 23rd September. Open Evening is one of the highlights of the school calendar for us and we love seeing faces old and new visiting school and seeing year 6 children enjoying taking part in activities. It is always a busy night, with literally hundreds of people visiting over the course of the evening. Concerns around the spread of Covid mean that we have had to review our plans and we have introduced a booking system to manage the flow of people throughout the evening. To allow us to prepare, school will close at 12.20pm on



Thursday 23rd September. Students will have an extended provision at breaktime, which will mean they can spend their full free school meal allowance and purchase food to be either eaten at break or saved until lunchtime when they leave school.

Reading

You will be aware that we have promoted reading in school for a number of years and have invested heavily in books and electronic reading platforms to enable students to take pleasure in reading books that interest them. All students are expected to carry a reading book in their bag at all times so they can engage in DEAR (drop everything and read) time daily in school. In addition, all students can access the online platform <https://www.myon.co.uk/login/>. They have been given their username and password to this site. Many parents have donated books to the library and if you are having a clear out pre-Christmas of books at home, we welcome age appropriate donations.

Bees

I am excited to share with you the news that we have our own bee hive here in school. Before you worry about whether that is safe around so many children, let me reassure you that we have undertaken a full risk assessment with a Lancashire County Council approved organisation and key members of staff have undergone full training in bee keeping. The beehive is located well away from the main school building in a far corner of The Diggery, which is only accessible under supervision and kept locked when not in use. We have already had our first students join our newly formed bee keeping club, and look forward to welcoming more in the future. There is special protective equipment required for anyone who visits the beehive and we have purchased some, but if demand grows as we hope it will to join this club, we will need to purchase more. If you would like to sponsor the beehive, please contact Mr Barrow at school and he will be pleased to discuss how you can help.

School Car Park

We have had an issue in recent months with taxis collecting our students with special needs being blocked in on the car park and then being unable to collect on time from a nearby special school. We also have a number of near misses on the car park where our children have almost been hit by cars pulling out. The safety of your children is paramount and as a result of these incidents, I must now politely insist that parents do not enter onto the car park in vehicles to drop off or collect children at the beginning and end of the school day. Children can leave school and walk to a designated pick up spot on the roads nearby and you are of course welcome to park up and walk your child into school.

Term Dates

The term dates for this academic year are at the end of this letter. Please can I draw your attention to the return dates following Christmas and Easter holidays where school resumes on a Tuesday rather than a Monday.

Also, an additional holiday has been given for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 3rd June, however, as this falls during half term break, school has elected to take this on Monday 21st February, so school will resume after February half term on Tuesday 22nd February 2022.

Term dates for the next academic year will be published once they have been agreed by the Governing Body next month.

New staff

I am delighted to introduce you to the following colleagues who have joined the Ashton family.

Dr Moore – Science

Mr El-Khamlichi - Science

Mr Alston - Maths

Mr Bull – English

Mrs Clements - English

Mr Latham – Computing

Mr Tarry – Music

Miss Bennett- PE

Mrs North SEN

Mr Howard - SEN

Mrs Thompson – DSD

Mr Forbes – FTEC manager

Mr Hedingham – Ex-Forces Mentor

I have some good news to share with you too, of the safe arrival of babies Waring and Lindley at the end of the summer holiday. Mr and Mrs Waring are now proud parents of a daughter and Miss Lindley of a son. Our warmest congratulations go to these members of our school family.

I would like to close by thanking you once again for your support. By working together, we achieve great things and I am looking forward to this new academic year bringing fresh opportunities for our students – your children – to shine, playing their part in making Ashton a school to be proud of.

Yours sincerely



Miss S Asquith
Headteacher

School Term and Holiday Patterns 2021-2022

AUTUMN TERM 2021	
INSET Day – Closed to Students	Wednesday 1st September 2021
School Re-opens (All Students)	Thursday 2nd September 2021
Half Term - Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October 2021	
School Re-opens	Monday 1 st November 2021
INSET Day – School closed	Friday 26 th November 2021
INSET Day – School closed	Monday 29 th November 2021
Christmas Holidays - Monday 20th December to Monday 3rd January 2022	

SPRING TERM 2022	
School Re-opens	Tuesday 4 th January 2022
Half Term - Monday 14th February to Monday 21st February 2022	
School Re-opens	Tuesday 22 nd February 2022
Easter Holidays - Monday 4th April to Monday 18th April 2022	

An additional public holiday has been given for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 3rd June. As this is during half term break, we have elected to take this day on Monday 21st February 2022

SUMMER TERM 2022	
School Re-opens	Tuesday 19 th April 2022
May Day – School Closed	Monday 2 nd May 2022
Half Term - Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022	
School Re-opens	Monday 6 th June 2022
Close for Summer	Wednesday 20 th July 2022
INSET Days – School Closed	Thursday 21 st and Friday 22 nd July 2022

Please note that any holiday requested during term time will not be authorised by school and will therefore be deemed to be an unauthorised absence.

Fixed penalty notices may be issued by the Local Authority to both parents in the event of an unauthorised absence.

