



# Ashton Community Science College

Headteacher: Miss S Asquith BA Hons, MA, NPQH

Aldwych Drive, Ashton,  
Preston PR2 1SL

Tel: 01772 513002

Web: [www.ashtoncsc.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.ashtoncsc.lancs.sch.uk)

E-mail: [enquiries@ashtoncsc.com](mailto:enquiries@ashtoncsc.com)

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*'a school to be proud of'*

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15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer of our new year 7 intake

Please find my end of term letter to the parents of our current students, edited with year 6 in mind. It provides you with an update regarding September and I hope you find it helpful.

This has been a year like no other and I am so pleased that we have made it. The end of the academic year is breathtakingly close and plans are already well underway for the next academic year. As national restrictions lift, we look forward cautiously to September, but we keep an eye on national and local guidance regarding safe practice in schools and will respond to them accordingly. There is already national guidance on the plans for lateral flow device testing (LFD testing) in schools in September, and I am expecting updated health and safety risk assessments in the forthcoming weeks.

## **Lateral flow device testing**

The DFE have asked all secondary schools to set up LFD testing sites for the September return to school and request that all students are tested twice on their return. Details of how to consent to this can be obtained via the following link <https://forms.office.com/r/7BJaUpv3bB> Testing will be done in school but the following link gives you some idea as to what is involved in completing a test. [Instructions for taking a LFT at home](#) Testing is voluntary but the DFE and PHE do encourage all children to take part.

## **Start of next term**

The new academic year starts for students on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, with plans for a staggered start around LFD testing. Students will be tested on Thursday following the plan below and again on Monday during the school day.

## **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

8.30 am – year 7 arrive onto the tennis courts to be met by Mrs Barrow and Mrs Barker. They will be accompanied into school for their LFD test and will remain in school for the day. Full school uniform is required.

11.00 am onwards - all other year groups arrive at the times stated below. They should present to door 5 where they will be met and accompanied into the test centre.

School uniform is not required for years 8-11 on Thursday since they will be returning home immediately following their LFD test.



FORM	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
A	11.00	12.10	13.10	14.10
S	11.10	12.20	13.20	14.20
H	11.20	12.30	13.30	14.30
T	11.30	12.40	13.40	14.40
O	11.40	12.50	13.50	14.50
N	11.50	13.00	14.00	15.00
C	12.00			

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

All students return to school ready for a prompt 8.40 am start in form time. Line ups will take place on the respective yards from 8.30 am and entry to school with form tutors will commence at 8.35 am. Please ensure your child is on the yard ready to start admission from 8.35 am

Years 7 and 11 will have their photographs taken on this day, in addition to any students who started school mid-year and do not have a photograph on the school SIMS system.

The school day remains the same in terms of start and finish time. There have been some changes to break and lunchtimes which will be explained to the children when they return. In summary they are:

- 8.40 – 9.00 am: Form time
- 9.00 – 10.00 am: Lesson 1
- 10.00 – 11.00 am: Lesson 2
- 11.00 – 11.20 am: Morning break
- 11.20 – 12.20 am: Lesson 3
- 12.20 – 13.20 am: Lesson 4
- 13.20 – 14.00 am: Lunch
- 14.00 – 15.00 am: Lesson 5
- 15-00 – 16.00 am: School detention where applicable

### Holiday pattern

The holiday pattern for the next academic year is attached to the end of this letter. Please note that an extra day's holiday has been scheduled on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022. This public holiday has been granted to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, which falls during half term break in May. Can I also respectfully remind you that holidays taken in term time will not be authorised and may attract a fixed penalty notice, in line with LCC and DFE guidance.

### Equipment packs

These can be purchased via Parentpay and will be available for collection on the first day of term. For year 7 they will be ready on the Thursday and for years 8 – 11 on the Friday. They represent excellent value for money and I would strongly advise you to purchase one. It is expected that all students will have their equipment pack each day, and whilst items of equipment can be purchased separately from shops, the school pack represents excellent value for money and offers a free swap for glue and pens when they run out during the year. The full equipment pack list is attached to this letter.

## **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, 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. From mid-September, 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.

## **School uniform**

In my last letter I mentioned school uniform and I would like to draw your attention to our expectation that students follow the rules around uniform and appearance, and thank you for your support. As I have said many times before, guiding the children through their teenage years and supporting them in accepting rules and standards is just one of our many roles as educators and parents. It is not always easy, and by working together we achieve the consistency between home and school that our children need to make the right choices.

## **Staff leavers**

We say goodbye and good luck to the following colleagues on Friday, who are off to pastures or adventures new:

Mr Hickey - Music teacher

Miss Lindley - Maths teacher commences maternity leave

Mrs Waring - commences maternity leave

Mr Austin - Art and photography teacher

Mrs Hodson – Teaching Assistant

Mrs Allan - Year 8 Progress Leader

I will introduce you to new colleagues in my September letter.

Finally, please enjoy a restful summer break.

Yours sincerely



Miss S Asquith  
Headteacher

## School Term and Holiday Patterns 2021-2022

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

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

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

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