

8th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We are very proud of the community spirit that has been present in our Academy during this challenging year and we are now looking forward to returning to normality as we come through the pandemic. It would be true to say that our Academy parents, staff and communities have never worked more closely and that we have all learned a great deal from finding innovative solutions to complex problems.

As we come to the end of the Summer term, I wanted to update you all regarding the plans for the end of term and the opening plans for September.

Arrangements for the last week of term

Students will finish for summer on Friday 16th July at the following times:

- Y9 and Y10: 12:15 p.m.
- Y7 and Y8: 12:30 p.m.

During the morning, students will take part in celebration activities which focus on all of the wonderful achievements of our students. This will be followed by an extended break where students can access brunch (which will replace a lunch). Students who are entitled to a free school meal can access it at this point.

Arrangements for September opening

Date	Arrival time	Year groups	Focus
Wednesday 1 st	Staff Inset Day: All students to stay at home		
Thursday 2 nd	Staff Inset Day: All students to stay at home		
Friday 3 rd	8:40 a.m.	Y7 and Y12 ONLY	Full induction day: Transition and Standards
Monday 6 th	8:40 a.m.	Y7 and Y12	Testing and Standards Assemblies/YGCW
	10:00 a.m.	Y10, Y11 and Y13*	
	11:30a.m.	Y8 and Y9*	
Tuesday 7 th onwards	8:40 a.m.	All students arrive at the same time.	Full Curriculum as normal

*Students should not arrive before the allocated times.

Times of the Academy Day

	Start	Finish
Curriculum for Life	8:40	9:10
Lesson 1	9:10	10:10
Lesson 2	10:10	11:10
Break	11:10	11:25
Lesson 3	11:25	12:25
Lesson 4	12:25	13:25
Lunch	13:25	14:00
Lesson 5	14:00	15:00

Following a consultation with parents and staff, we have changed the timings of the school day to allow us to deliver our innovative Curriculum for Life Programme:

Proud to be a member of



ALL SAINTS
Multi Academy Trust

All Saints Multi Academy Trust is the operating name for The Liverpool Joint Catholic and Church of England Academies Trust

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Attendance

As a City, we have been disproportionately hit with the impacts of the pandemic and this resulted in many students missing numerous days of school over the past year. As we move out of the pandemic and back to normality, it is vital that attendance to school is a key priority for all students next year. The Government has made it very clear in their guidance that it is the parent's/carer's responsibility to ensure their child attends school every day. The Government has also been very clear that all normal systems for monitoring attendance will continue in September. Over the past four years attendance has improved at our Academy and we want to ensure that we continue with that positive trend.

Year 11 and Year 13 Teacher Assessed Grades: Results Days: August 2021

Results days this year are slightly earlier:

Year 13: Tuesday 10th August

Year 11: Thursday 12th August

All students will receive a letter outlining their individual appointment times. We are looking forward to celebrating with all of our students.

COVID guidelines in September

As you will be aware, the government have made the following changes to the COVID guidance;

- Students and staff will no longer need to isolate if they are a contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19
- The Academy will no longer run track and trace, this will be run by NHS track and trace
- Masks will not need to be worn at the Academy

Students will still be expected to isolate and take a PCR test if they have COVID-19 symptoms and we will be conducting two tests for children who consent to testing in September. We will use the current consent that you have provided. If you would like to add your consent for testing, please contact the Academy on info@astn.uk It is also useful to note that the guidance does state that, if there is an outbreak in a school, we could move back to a situation where close contacts need to isolate and masks need to be worn. You will be immediately informed if this situation arises.

Drop off and pick up

As always, the road outside school can become busy at the start and end of the school day. For the safety of students, parents are no longer permitted to enter the school site via the gates during peak times. If you are dropping your child off by car, please arrange to do so away from the school entrance on Horrocks Avenue or surrounding streets. Parents who enter site within peak times may risk being locked in until all of the students have left site. If your child has specific needs which require you to come on site, please speak to your child's Head of Year. There is plenty of room for students to chain their bike up outside the main Academy building, however, they do so at their own risk. I have also been asked to remind parents that students should not be travelling to school on an E-Scooter, students will not be allowed to store E-scooters on the school site.

Uniform Standards and appearance

You will find enclosed with this letter important information regarding uniform standards and appearance. I urge you to read the updated information very carefully to ensure you do not waste money on uniform items that do not meet our high expectations.

Equipment

All children must come to school equipped and ready to learn. We will have a stationery shop for any students who do not come to school with the relevant equipment. If your child attends without the required stationery including essentials such as: 2 x black or blue pens; green pen; ruler and pencil. School bags will be expected to be able to carry A4 sized books and folders. They should have two straps and be waterproof, to protect exercise books. Students are **not** allowed fashion or handbag type styles. Please refer to the pictorial guidance if you are unsure.

Reports

You will shortly be receiving your child's end of year progress report. This report will give you an overview of the progress made this year. The report will look slightly different this year, to account for the time that has been missed from the school closure in January. There will be guidance accompanying the report to explain this further.

Cashless catering

From September students who pay for their school dinner will no longer be able to top up their account with cash in the Academy. We are moving to fully cashless system, this means parents/carers will need to top up a student's account via ParentPay. More information can be found on: <https://www.parentpay.com>

School Transport

To support the local community, we operate a free school bus. Priority places are offered to our Y7 students. For further information and to request a seat on the bus, please visit <http://theacademyofstnicholas.org.uk/schoolbus> If you would like to discuss exceptional circumstances which mean your child would need to access the bus, please contact Mr Robinson, Deputy Headteacher.

Curriculum for Life

We are delighted to be launching our Curriculum for Life programme in September. We have developed a well sequenced, coherent and interconnected programme that truly has the power to transform lives. Under the tag line of 'Preparing for the tests of life not just a life of tests' we have developed a detailed curriculum including life skills, literacy, collective worship and the development of SMSC that all dovetail under a half termly theme.

- Year Group Collective Worship – The coming together of a year group to worship and reflect on life's big picture and challenges. Clearly linked to the liturgical calendar with a consistent approach being adopted.
- Life Skills – The direct teaching of the PSHE curriculum. Cross referenced against statutory guidance and the needs of our local community.
- Stories for Life – Reading for pleasure. The opportunity to read exciting, age appropriate books modelled by their life tutor. These books are skillfully chosen to pick up some of the themes taught in Life Skills
- Debates & Discussions – Reading of a news article to provoke thought and dialogue. A question is posed beforehand, the article is read, summarised and then reflected upon.
- Moral Dilemmas – The opportunity to discuss how students may respond to a given scenario. There may not be a right or wrong answer and creating further questions is encouraged!
- Aspiring for More – Following the VESPA programme which is a self-reflective scheme giving students the opportunity to break through their targets by considering their Vision, Effort, Systems, Practice and Attitude.
- Future Ambitions – A programme to support the progression routes of our post 16 students. Whether that be to a job, apprenticeship or university they will find the help here.

Staff changes

As ever at this time of year, some staff are leaving us for pastures new and I am sure you will join us in wishing these staff good luck for the future.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome some new colleagues to our St. Nicholas community including:

Mr Healey – English
Mr Lewis - English
Mr Webster - Maths
Ms Craig-Stocks – Science
Mr Wilkinson – Science
Mr Sloane – Spanish and French
Mr Holland – History
Miss Roose – Art and Design and Technology
Ms Robinson – Design and Technology
Miss Dermott – Drama with English

After a year as Headteacher, I remain tremendously proud of all we have achieved together in our Academy community. I cannot hope to list here everyone who has helped to make this academy what it is, or those who have contributed to the year's journey. What an extraordinary time, what an extraordinary place. I look forward to the year to come and wish you all a superb summer.

Kindest regards



Mrs J Sing
Headteacher