

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Easter Newsletter

Thank you for your continued support, especially during a term that has been difficult because of both the weather and the seasonal illnesses that has affected our community particularly hard this year.

The updates contained in this newsletter are for everyone and the information has already been shared with students in assemblies. It is important that changes and issues relating to raising standards are communicated widely to ensure fairness and to make sure that we are all aware of the same values and rules.

Mobile Phones

Recently we have noted an increasing use of mobile phones and devices from some students in lessons, which is distracting from their learning.

From Tuesday 17th April, it will be expected that students' mobile phones are kept in their bags and switched off during lessons unless participating in a supervised teacher-led activity. If mobile phones are seen or heard, they will be confiscated for collection at the end of the lesson. If a student persists in using their mobile phones, they will be confiscated for collection by parents. Students will continue to be allowed to use their mobile phones during break and lunchtimes.

Fizzy and Energy Drinks

Many high street stores have now banned the sales of energy drinks to under-16s following warnings over high levels of caffeine and sugar. We have decided that the evidence against the drinks is overwhelming and will be following the likes of Tesco, WH Smith, Asda, Co-op and all NHS Hospitals by stopping access.

From Tuesday 17th April, all fizzy and energy drinks will be banned at Ormiston Forge Academy. The sugar, calorie and caffeine content in energy drinks is far too high. Just one can of Rockstar Punched (500ml) contains 78g sugar – that's nearly 20 teaspoons, whilst a can of Coke contains nearly 12 teaspoons of sugar. The consumption of fizzy and energy drinks is a huge contribution to sugar intake, which is linked to the development of obesity and various types of cancer, as well as type 2 diabetes and is rotting our children's teeth.

If fizzy drinks and/or energy drinks such as Red Bull, Relentless, Monster Energy, Coke and Rockstar are found on site, they will be disposed of. Please support us in ensuring that your children don't have access to these drinks and encourage them to drink water, squash or healthier alternatives at home and school.

Consistent Uniform and Equipment

Teachers will be greeting students at the door of each lesson to ensure students are appropriately dressed and equipped before allowing them into lessons. Students should be in shoes and have a pencil case containing equipment at all times.

If providing either of these proves difficult, contact the academy office and we will provide them on your behalf. Please be reminded that notes for shoes are not accepted unless it is a medical condition. Students without shoes will have to wear a pair provided by the academy.

Staffing Update

Congratulations go to both Mrs Porter and to Mrs Watkins, who will be leaving us for new positions after Easter. Miss Noon will be taking over as Head of MFL. Mrs Williams and Mrs Hickman will take over running special needs from Easter.

End of Term

Thursday 29 March is a non-uniform day, £1 per family. Students will be dismissed at 1.25pm

Start of Term

Monday 16th April is a Training Day. Students will return on Tuesday 17th and go straight into lessons.

Academy Day Consultation

We have consulted with staff and governors regarding two minor changes to the academy day. The proposal is to increase the length of Monday Period 6 from 50 minutes to one hour in order to make all lessons 60 minutes in duration and for each day to start at 8.40am to allow time for assemblies to take place.

If you would like to share your views please send them in writing to the academy office. The consultation period will close on Friday 18 May. If it is required a parental meeting will be arranged for the following week.

The proposed model can be seen below:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		Friday
Warning Bell	8.35	8.35	8.35	8.35		8.35
Tutor	8.40-8.55 Tutor Period/Asse mbly	8.40-8.55 Tutor Period/Asse mbly	8.40-8.55 Tutor Period/Asse mbly	8.40-8.55 Tutor Period/Asse mbly	P 1	8.40-9.40
Period 1	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	P 2	9.45-10.45
Period 2	10.05-11.05	10.05-11.05	10.05-11.05	10.05-11.05	Break	10.45-11.10
Break	11.05-11.20	11.05-11.20	11.05-11.20	11.05-11.20	P 3	11.10-12.10
Period 3	11.20-12.20	11.20-12.20	11.20-12.20	11.20-12.20	P 4	12.15 - 1.15
Period 4	12.25-1.25	12.25-1.25	12.25-1.25	12.25-1.25		
Lunch	1.25-2.10	1.25-2.10	1.25-2.10	1.25-2.10		
	Y7 1.10pm, supervised by P4 Teaching staff					
	Y11 1.25pm					
	Y8, 9 and 10 will go for lunch at 1.40pm, additional bell rung					
Period 5	2.10-3.10	2.10-3.10	2.10-3.10	2.10-3.10		
Period 6	3.10-4.10		* 3.25-4.25 Learning and Teaching Meeting (Staff only)			

Thank you again for your continued support. Have a great Easter break.

Mr A Burns
Principal

