

8<sup>th</sup> December 2021

### **End of Term Updates for Parents / Carers**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well.

### **End of Term Round Up**

Please take the time to see what has been happening at the Academy since September! Follow us on Twitter (@airedaleacademy) and Facebook to see our first ever end of term round up – coming next week!

### **Airedale Food Bank & Airedale Baby & Children's Bank**

We can't thank-you enough for sharing the Christmas spirit of giving with those less fortunate. We have already had so many donations for our local charity. We will be supporting the Airedale Foodbank and the Airedale Baby & Children's Bank as we approach the festive season this year. All donations can be sent with your child into school and given to their Form Tutor! Happy holidays!

### **Attendance**

There has been a significant increase in the number of students absent from school with a reason that we aren't able to authorise over the past week. The amount of time that students have been out of school, due to the pandemic, over the past 2 years means that now, more than ever before, every minute in school counts. Please can I ask for parent and carer support in ensuring that students are in school, on time, each and every day. It is not acceptable for students to stay off school for a headache or because they are tired. Thank-you for your continued support with attendance.

### **New measures in response to the Omicron variant of COVID-19**

The Prime Minister announced on 27 November 2021 that new temporary and precautionary measures will be put in place from 30 November 2021, following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK.

The new measures have been introduced as a precaution, to slow down the spread of the variant whilst more is learned about it. The Department for Education has issued guidance for all education and childcare settings, which is summarised below. It must be stressed that different regions may be receiving different public health advice, depending on case numbers in that region. This advice will of course be considered at all times by our academy leaders.

### **Face Coverings**

As you will be aware, we were already strongly recommending that face coverings be worn in communal areas by all staff, visitors and students in school. Government guidance now states that face coverings should be worn in communal areas for those individuals mentioned, unless they are

exempt. Students should also continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.

### Testing

We encourage all staff and students to continue to test twice weekly using lateral flow devices (LFD). These can be ordered at no charge from <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flowtests> or your local pharmacy.

### Testing during the holidays and on return in January 2022

The government is strongly encouraging all staff and students to continue to test at home twice weekly over the holidays. This is especially important at this time of year when family and friends will be gathering to celebrate the festive season. To facilitate this, we are providing all secondary students with sufficient LFD kits to take home for use over the holidays.

Secondary schools are also being asked to test students on-site once, on their return in January 2022. We will provide more information about this in due course

### Contact tracing and isolation

The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place. However, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days.

### Vaccination

In line with DFE guidance, we strongly encourage all those eligible to take up the offer of the vaccine, including the booster. Vaccination appointments can be booked here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronaviruvaccination/>

### Uniform Reminders

As we continue to experience adverse weather, we are happy for our students to wear a plain black v-neck jumper or cardigan (no logos or sweatshirts) underneath their blazer. Please remind your son / daughter that this is to be worn with their blazer not instead of it. Please support us by making sure that your child also has appropriate school shoes and not trainers.

### End of Term Arrangements

As you may be aware, in December, schools across the country host an annual Christmas Jumper Day to celebrate the end of the Autumn term and raise money for worthy causes. This year, our Christmas Jumper Day at Airedale Academy will be held on Thursday 16th December 2021. Students are encouraged to bring non-perishable food or drinks, gifts, toiletries and household items in support of our local food bank. Let's support our local community by giving generously, if you are able, our donations will make a real difference.

Please be aware that this event is a non-uniform and Christmas or winter jumper event, but not a fancy-dress day. Whilst we encourage students to get into the festive spirit with their Christmas jumpers, we respectfully request that students dress appropriately and do not wear costumes, tinsel or short/ripped clothing which would be impractical for learning. Further to this, normal rules around make-up, jewellery and mobile phones continue to apply.

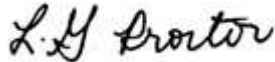
This is a full school day with normal start and finish times for all students. As per our term calendar dates on our website, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December the Academy is closed to students.

#### **Start of Term Arrangements – Lateral Flow Testing**

As you may be aware, secondary schools have been asked to test students for whom they have obtained consent, on their return in January 2022. We are currently finalising arrangements for our testing programme. I will write to you next week with details and start dates and times for students.

Thank-you for your continued support during the Autumn term. I hope that you have a safe and wonderful holiday with your family. We look forward to welcoming our students back to the Academy in January 2022.

Yours faithfully,



**Miss L Proctor**  
**Principal**