

Droylsden Academy is a good school

LEARNING IN SCHOOL AND THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD ATTENDANCE

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Learning in school and the importance of good attendance

As we have settled into our new routines and protocols for the safe return to school I would like, once again, to praise the students for their politeness and hard work. Fortunately, to date, we have not experienced the issues that some other schools are having to deal with and all our classes have continued without interruption. However, we must not become complacent. We must remind our young people of the very clear government advice:

- **Hands:** wash more often for 20 seconds or sanitise regularly.
- **Face:** always wear a face covering when moving around inside the building, on public transport and in shops.
- **Space:** as far as possible maintain a social distance of 2 metres.

Obviously, the fact that the majority of students were out of classrooms for 5 months earlier in the year has the potential to severely damage the future chances of students. I would like to reassure you once again that we are doing all we can to minimise the impact of this missed face-to-face learning time and we are adapting our Curriculum and Schemes of Work where necessary to ensure that vital skills, knowledge and understanding are quickly incorporated into current learning.

This is why it is vital that children are in the building to learn every day if they are well enough to attend school. Any unnecessarily missed days from school have a damaging impact on a child's learning and progress. Whilst it is essential that students follow all guidance about self-isolation if they or a member of their household has COVID symptoms or has received a positive test, **slight sniffles and common cold symptoms are not a reason to miss school.** Our systems are tight and follow or exceed all national and local guidance and we continue to be very vigilant and responsive to any feedback that we receive that can further improve our systems. We now have in place a very workable balance between safety and education.

As I have said before, by far **the most significant risk to young people is the possible long term damaging effects on their future life chances of missing more vital learning** and we must do all we can to support them in this regard. **Year 10 and 11 students have important Pre-Public Examinations very soon** and it is worth reminding ourselves that the students who left this year

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were awarded final grades based, to a large extent, on these in-school tests. Whilst none of us know what the future will hold, we must be cautious, plan for every eventuality, and ensure we do all we can to safeguard our students' successful futures.

Please also read the following important letter from the Department for Education and, if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

AN IMPORTANT LETTER FROM THE NHS AND THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION

Dear Parents and Carers



This is an important letter to share some information on how we can work together to make sure we can continue to give children and young people the best education in the safest way possible.

One important part of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of pupils, parents and our communities is testing for coronavirus. We all have a duty to make sure that the right people have access to get tested at the right time. Every time a test is used inappropriately, a person with Covid-19 symptoms may miss out on getting tested.

Therefore, I ask that you all follow these principles:

1. You should only book a test if your child has any of these three coronavirus symptoms:

- **A high temperature:** any new high temperature where your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure the temperature).
- **A new continuous cough:** coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.
- **A loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste:** a noticeable loss of smell or taste or things smell and taste different to normal.

2. Your child **does not need a test** if they have a runny nose, are sneezing or feeling unwell but do not have a temperature, cough or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste because these are not normally symptoms of coronavirus.

3. If you are unsure about whether to get a test, please check the official list of symptoms on the NHS website, which is reviewed regularly:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/

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4. Only the person with symptoms should get a test. You do not need to get a test for anyone else in the household unless they also have any of the three symptoms listed above. All members of the household need to self-isolate whilst waiting for the test result.

5. If the person with symptoms' test comes back positive, other members of their household should continue self-isolating for 14 days **and only get a test if they develop coronavirus symptoms.**

6. If a pupil in a class or bubble tests positive for coronavirus, anyone who is advised to self-isolate **does not require a test unless they subsequently develop symptoms.**

No one else in the same class or bubble as the symptomatic person needs to take any action unless advised by the school. Schools have detailed guidance and access to a Department for Education and Public Health England helpline for advice and support.

Contacts of a person who has tested positive must follow the guidance carefully and in full, which means they must stay at home for 14 days. This is because it can take several days following contact with an infected person before an individual develops symptoms or the virus can be detected. Students should only book a test if they get symptoms.

The NHS has produced some guidance to help parents understand when their child can and cannot attend school which you may find useful:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthybody/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

It is vital for children's learning and future opportunities that they are able to return to school and college. It is therefore vitally important that all we work together and do our bit to make this possible.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Viv Bennett CBE
Chief Nurse and Director Maternity
and Early Years | Public Health England
Head of World Health Organisation
Collaborating Centre for Public Health
Nursing and Midwifery



Dr Susan Hopkins
Interim Chief Medical Officer |
NHS Test & Trace
Deputy Director | Public Health England
Consultant in Infectious Diseases &
Microbiology Royal Free, London



**Please see the important information about the
new NHS App at the end of Newsflash.**



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IN THE ACADEMY THIS WEEK

Music

This week, Year 7 classes have been learning about the building blocks of music and focusing on creating their own four beat rhythms, whilst Year 8 have been tackling 'Theme and Variation' using the music from Bach's 'Canon' as their theme and inputting their own variations using the programme 'Logic Pro'.



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Art

Year 7 Art students take part in some experimental drawing using touch rather than sight to strengthen their brain-hand connection. The group used their masks to cover their eyes whilst they attempt a drawing of a shell without looking. You could try this at home!



Meanwhile, another Year 7 class practice a more conventional approach to observational drawing. The two compositions here were drawn by **Olivia Baldwin** and **Kieron Ali** with their eyes wide open!



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Food and Nutrition



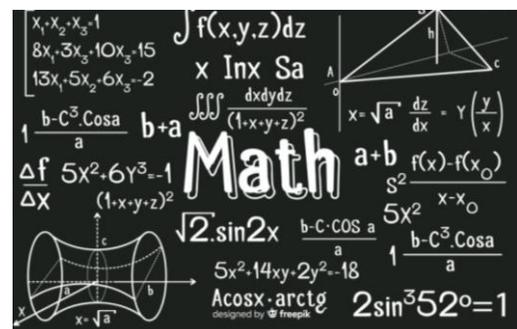
Above, Year 7 students use the 'Eatwell' Guide to make informed decisions about preparing healthy meal options...

...and below, Year 8 make a Chicken Stir Fry and learn how to avoid issues around cross contamination when cooking and preparing their dishes.



Year 11 Lunchtime Maths Club

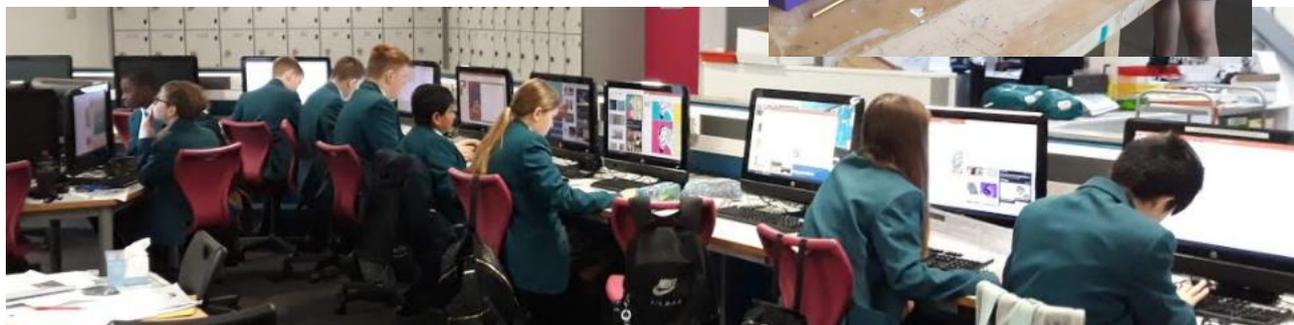
The Year 11 Maths Club is now up and running every lunchtime, from 1.15pm, in I7. Remember to come along, practice your Maths, get help on specific topics or get additional revision materials and guidance. The Maths Department look forward to seeing you!



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Technology

In Technology, students have been working hard at researching different design eras and then getting 'hands on' in the Workshop.



GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 26 school weeks left, just 130 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

Your Pre-Public Examinations start in just six weeks time. These are really important exams and you must revise and prepare thoroughly for them. **It is worth remembering that, for the Year 11 cohort that left this summer, their final grades were based directly on their performance in their Pre-Public Examinations.**

Remember to attend as many Virtual Open Days and Open Evenings at our local colleges as you can, so that you are really well informed and can make the right choices for your future. The table below gives you information on when the Open Days will take place.

| College | Open Days |
|------------------------------|--|
| Tameside College | To be confirmed. |
| Clarendon Sixth Form College | To be confirmed. |
| Ashton Sixth Form College | Tuesday 20 th October from 5.00pm to 8.00pm. |
| The Manchester College | Monday 12 th October to Thursday 15 th from 5.00pm to 8.00pm each evening. Monday 23 rd November to Thursday 26 th from 5.00pm to 8.00pm each evening. Please check the Website for further information and to book a place. |

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| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Connell Sixth Form College | Saturday 17 th October from 10.00am to 1.00pm. |
| Xavarian College | Saturday 10 th October. Sunday 18 th October. Please check the Website for further information. |
| Loreto College | Saturday 10 th October from 10.00am to 11.30am or 12.00pm to 1.30pm. Sunday 18 th October from 10.00am to 11.30am or 12.00pm to 1.30pm. Saturday 7 th November from 10.00am to 11.30am or 12.00pm to 1.30pm. Please check the website for further information. |
| Oldham Sixth Form College | Saturday 3 rd October from 10.00am to 2.00pm. Monday 12 th October from 5.00pm to 8.00pm. |
| Oldham College | To be confirmed. |

HAVE YOUR SAY

How do you think the new term has gone so far?

Do you have any useful feedback for us?

We'd really like to hear from Parents and Students about your experience of returning to school in a 'COVID safe learning environment'. What do you think we've done well and what we can do better?

Please email your comments to us at

haveyoursay@droylsdenacademy.com

and we'll include them in future editions of Newsflash.

Thank you



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CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

As many of you will be aware, the Academy has invested heavily in our successful Character Development Programme where students are acknowledged and rewarded for achieving against our four 'Character Pillars', Learn, Lead, Serve and Participate. These four Character Pillars are fundamental to our school and, over the last two years, students have been encouraged to record evidence of how they have demonstrated these strong character traits both in school and the wider community. Students can achieve against each Pillar at three levels, Apprentice, Master and Graduate, with each level having increasingly more challenging success criteria to meet.



Students have gathered evidence of their achievements in a number of different ways. For instance, a student may have shown service by helping others in an organised community event or they may have participated in a school production or sporting fixture. Likewise, a student may have demonstrated great learning by making strong academic progress in a range of subjects, or they may have shown leadership by organising and leading other students in an activity. Successful completion of activities related to any of the four Character Pillars earns points towards a prestigious enamel badge which students may wear on their blazer in recognition of their achievements. The photo below shows students achieving their badges at one of last year's presentation evenings.



If you are completely new to the Academy's Character Development Programme Academy, then this short video, will help to explain how it works. **Please note, to view this video or any of the others detailed below, you will have to be logged in through your child's school email account to access any of the link.**

An introduction to Character Development at Droylsden Academy:

<https://www.loom.com/share/282dcb85b3bf4fe792f8218f09986c9d>

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Clearly, with the current restrictions in place, it could be more difficult for students to demonstrate and record their achievements and, with this in mind, Mr Jackson, the Programme Director, has introduced an online 'virtual' platform which students can use instead. The video below shows you how the virtual platform will work....

<https://www.loom.com/share/2e26aec346b740369bbade900b7ce85d>

.... and the link below will take you to the student recording form.

<https://forms.gle/qqSmdSGB2dxPgGgZ9>

As before, students will need to identify an area of Character that they are going to develop within each of the four Pillars. There are over 250 suggested challenges or ways that a student could meet the criteria. These suggested challenges, and further details of the Character Programme, can be found by following the link below.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/11g2OpWth_T1N7J0PYeuDFwjd-Smgumta/view?usp=sharing

If a child is in Years 8 to 11 then remember that he/she should not choose criteria for which they have already received awards! Once students have satisfied the criteria against a particular character trait, they will need to explain, in detail, how they have met the challenges and supply the name of the person (staff member, parent, etc.) who is able to validate it, i.e. someone who is able to confirm that the student has done what they say they have! Students can come back to this form and resubmit as many times as they need to.

We hope that your child will get fully involved in the programme and, if there is anything you would like to ask or clarify, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Jackson, Director of Character and Life Skills at:

sjackson@droylsdenacademy.com



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Zach Devlin** and **Oliver Newsam** from Year 7, **Devanshi Shah** from Year 10 and **Ben Hollinshead** from Year 11 who have all been nominated as students of the week

Zach and Oliver have both been nominated by the Maths Department as they have made a great start to Year 7 and give 100% in every lesson. They always complete their work to a high standard and are always keen to put their hands up and get involved.



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Devanshi has been nominated by the Science Department as she has made an excellent start to her Triple Science GCSE Course. She is enthusiastic and thoughtful and is working exceptionally hard. If she continues to work like this, she is on track for great success in the future.

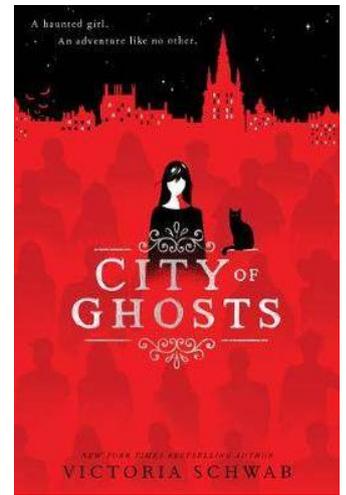
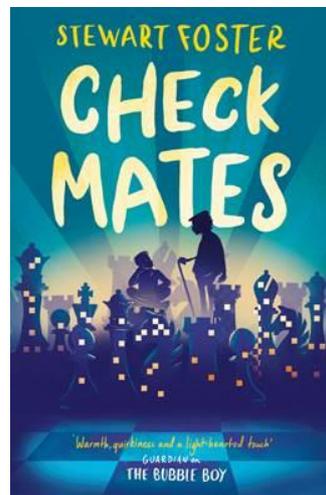
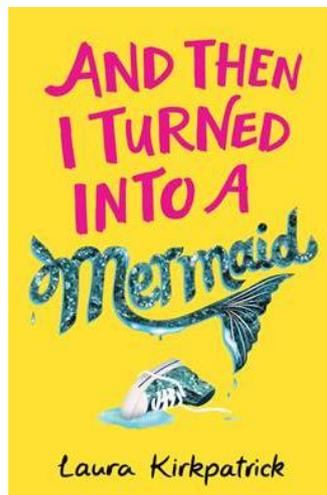
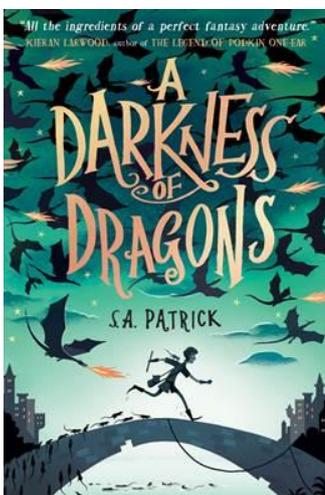
Ben has been nominated by the English Department as he is making wonderful progress in lessons. His understanding of how the plot and characters are developing in Macbeth is phenomenal. He is somebody who consistently, and in a sophisticated manner, engages in class discussions and his ideas seem to inspire his peers. To add to this, he is using key terminology accurately in his analysis and goes the extra mile. Well done Ben!



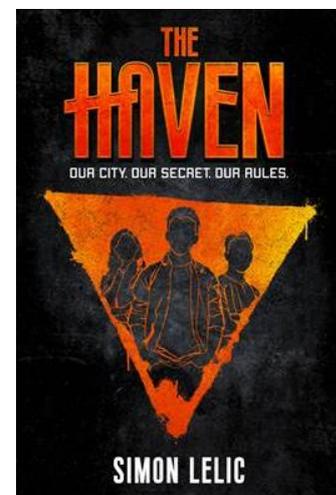
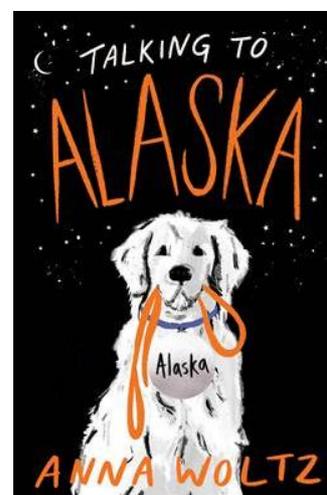
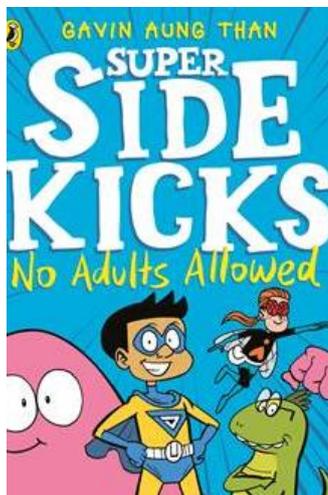
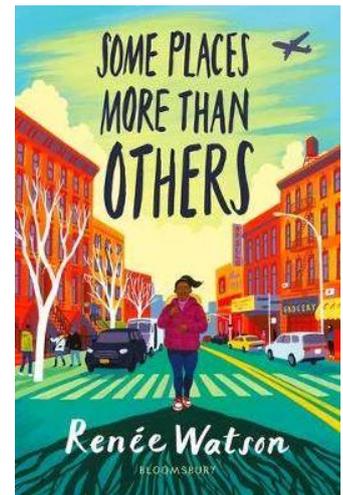
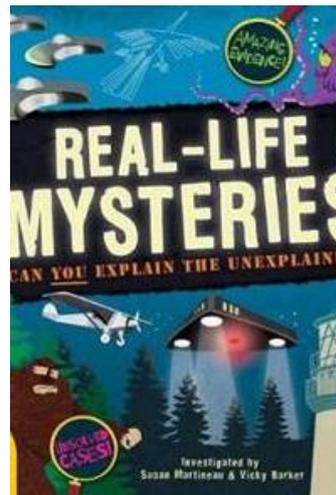
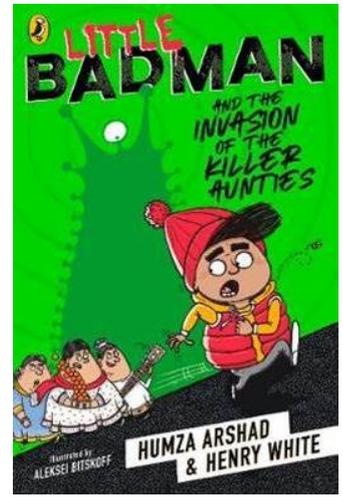
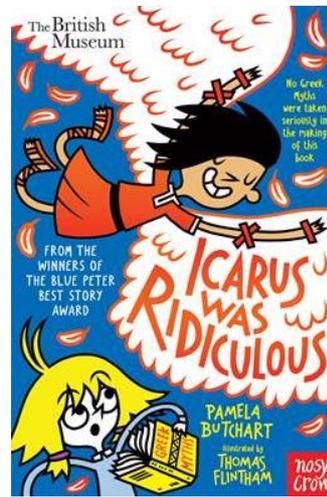
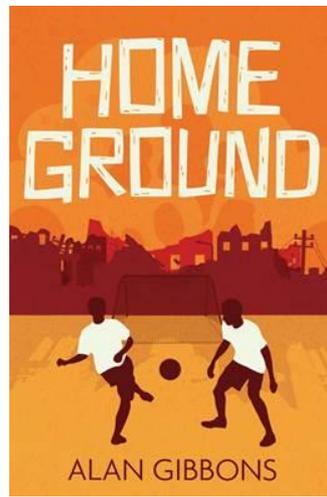
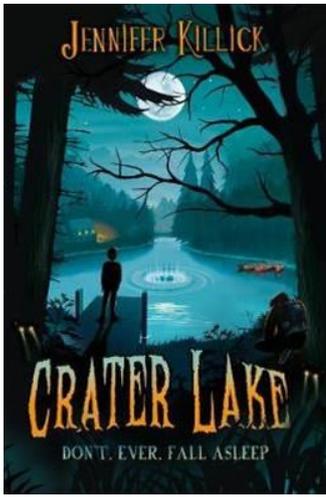
'BOOKBUZZ'

As you will be aware, the Academy is taking part in BookTrust's 'Bookbuzz' programme, which aims to get children reading. Your child will choose their own book to keep out of the 16 Bookbuzz titles available. Bookbuzz is run by BookTrust, the UK's largest children's reading charity that transforms lives by getting children and families reading. Each year BookTrust reaches 3.9 million children across the UK with books, resources and support to help deliver a love of reading.

Here is a preview of the 16 books you can choose from! Year 7 students will find out more about each of the titles in their English lessons.



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REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Academy Uniform

We would like to remind all parents and carers that, in line with our Uniform Policy, there should be no bows on school shoes or on school socks. Thank you for supporting us in maintaining high standards of uniform and presentation.

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Digital Learning

Tameside Children's Services have asked if parents and carers could spend a couple of minutes to complete a questionnaire on digital learning. The survey can be accessed through the link below and the information they receive will be invaluable in planning future provision.

<https://forms.gle/ustfbLVdom4nASZZA>

Thank you

Face Masks

Please remember to wash your child's face mask regularly and remind your child to bring it to school every day.

As face masks are now a specified part of school equipment, any student who arrives without their mask will be issued a correction (detention) and will be supplied with a surgical disposable mask that they can wear for the day.



A 'Cashless School'

The Academy is moving towards becoming a 'cashless school' which will help reduce the contamination and transmission risks of using cash and also avoid issues around students losing their money. We would ask that, wherever possible, payments for school meals and any future activities or events are made through Schools Gateway.

Payments can be made through the Gateway on line or at 'Pay Point' centres which can be found in many local shops. We would ask that all parents now use this system to top their child's account with lunch money if their child purchases school dinners.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We will be celebrating European Language Day on Friday 25th September.

Year 11 students studying GCSE Food and Nutrition will be taking their practical assessments in week beginning Monday 5th October.

Year 8 and 9 HPV 'Catch-up' injections for those students who have missed them will take place in week beginning Monday 12th October.

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Year 9 students will take part in a 'drop down' day on Sex and Relationships Education on Friday 25th October.

The Academy will close for the Half Term Holiday on Friday 25th October.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT THE NEW NHS COVID APP

As parents and carers will be aware, the NHS COVID-19 App has been launched by the Government this week and is now available to download on your mobile device. Clearly, we all hope that the App will be successful in helping to reduce the spread of the virus.

Guidance from the Government and the NHS is very clear, the App should only be downloaded and used by people over 16. As such, parents and carers should discourage any child under 16 from downloading the App, a message we will vigorously endorse and support at school.



We should, however, encourage all young adults over the age of 16 to download the App, use it in a responsible way and play their part in the national effort to stop the spread of the virus and so save lives. We will be giving clear guidance to all students in Year 11 over the coming week and then, moving forward, throughout the year.

Year 11 students who have turned 16 and who have downloaded the App, should check their device when they leave school at the end of the day and, if they receive a notification that they are a contact, they should inform a member of staff immediately. There is no need for students to check the App during the school day.

Please note, there will be no change to the Academy's mobile phone policy. If a phone is seen or heard in school it will be confiscated.

Any misuse of the App will be viewed very seriously. Clearly, in school, any misuse has the potential to disrupt student learning but, more importantly, it could also have far wider implications and ramifications for others including family and friends. As such, there will, understandably, be serious consequences for any student who is found to have used the App irresponsibly. The App is not a toy, it is an important weapon in the national armoury against the pandemic.

Thank you for reading this message. We are sure we can rely on your support in reinforcing the very important points above with your family.

Please read this important message

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