

December 2019

Dear parents / carers

The Christmas holiday is now rapidly approaching and our students and staff are looking forward to traditional festive activities.

The academy will close for the holiday at 12.30 (students will leave from 12.15) on the 19th December and re-open to students at 8.20 on Monday the 6th January 2020.

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Miss Wells, Ms Tyrrell, Mr Scott, Mr Robinson (Science), Miss Thwaites, Miss Paley, Mrs Bird (Careers) and Mrs Roberts (SMSA). I would like to thank them for their hard work on behalf of our students and wish them well for the future.

In January we will welcome Mr Davies as Vice Principal and Mr Howley as Curriculum Leader of Science. I am looking forward to working with them as we continue in our efforts to improve Netherwood.

The New Year is traditionally the time when we take stock and make resolutions for the year ahead. We do this as individuals, as families and also as academies.

My resolution is to help Netherwood become a strong academy, an academy where every student can feel proud because they have tried their best every day. An academy where strong relationships shine through in everything we do. An academy where students and parents respect the adults in doing their absolute best for the children. An academy that makes a difference to the life chances of every child who attends. An academy where every teacher and adult is inspired to give Netherwood students the experiences and life chances that they wish for their own children. In order to develop this culture, I need the unconditional support of every family.

In the time that I have been here as Executive Principal I have met many wonderful, polite and friendly students. They are lucky to be able to learn in a modern building and be supported by such a committed staff. From this base, Netherwood can progress well. However, if we are to succeed we need to take stock and re-establish some basic principles.

The first, centres around a commitment that families send their children here with the determination to succeed during each academy day; ultimately leaving the academy with good qualifications, good attitudes, resilience, high aspirations and a range of skills that will set them up for success throughout life.

I know that the overwhelming majority of parents will understand the need to support us in getting the basics right. This commitment must start with acceptance of academy standards

of appearance. This isn't an issue for those who always wear correct uniform and follow rules with regard to jewellery, make-up and other aspects of personal appearance. Please support us by ensuring that it is not your child who is wearing the incorrect shoes, has no blazer, has unacceptable nails or stands out for not adhering to uniform expectations. Academy rules with respect to uniform and appearance are not up for negotiation.

On the 6th of January, I expect every student to attend the academy wearing the correct uniform. If we have concerns about individual children we will contact parents and carers directly on the 6th of January in order to secure a rapid commitment to conform. For clarity, full details of uniform are posted on the Netherwood Academy website.

<https://astreanetherwood.org/curriculum/uniform/>

At the beginning of next term we will also be reminding all students of their obligations to the academy.

In summary, these are:

- Attending regularly and punctually
- Preparing for the academy day and being fully equipped for every lesson
- Treating their peers and adults with courtesy and respect
- Appreciating their academy environment and not littering or causing any damage
- Moving around the building and site in an orderly and considerate way
- Attending every lesson on time and adhering to academy classroom expectations without the need for behaviour sanctions
- Completing all work to a high standard and recording this carefully in exercise books.

Previously in this letter I referred to the many wonderful and polite students that I have met. I need them to maintain their efforts and continue to model their excellent behaviours as we push to raise standards in all aspects of our work.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish yourselves and your family a really good break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on the 6th of January and working with them to improve our academy.

Yours faithfully



Eric Jackson
Executive Principal