9th February 2024

Welcome to our weekly newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and share some information about forthcoming events / dates for your diary.

**Meeting with a member of staff**

We aim to respond to phone calls and emails within 48 hours prioritising those that have a safeguarding concern – we ask for your patience, we will get back to everyone as soon as possible.

If you would like to meet in person with a member of staff - please call the academy in advance to book an appointment. We are sorry but we are unable to see parents who come to reception without an appointment with the exception of Wednesday mornings when you can ask to see the Principal or a member of the Senior Leadership team during the advertised drop-in session.

**Uniform**

Please could you ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform on the return from the half term break.

**Boys**

* Academy Blazer with academy badge on breast pocket. Sleeves must not be rolled up
* Plain black school trousers – must not have pockets along the length of the leg
* White shirt – Uniform style with stiff collar, buttoned to the top. Shirts must be tucked in all the times
* School shoes black
* Socks – pain black or white
* Academy clip on tie

**Girls**

* Academy Blazer with academy badge on breast pocket. Sleeves must not be rolled up
* Plain black school trousers (no skin tight leggings) – must not have pockets along the length of the leg
* Pleated black skirt – no shorter than top of knee – Not rolled over at waist
* White shirt – Uniform style with stiff collar, buttoned to the top. Shirts must

be tucked in all the times

* School shoes black
* Tights – pain black or white
* Academy clip on tie

**Reminder – Leggins are not part of the school uniform and must not be worn from Monday 26th February 2024.**

**Year 11 Mock Exams – Changes to Lunch break**

When we return from February half term, Year 11 will be taking their next set of mock exams. In order to fully reflect what will happen in the summer exams we will be using the exam board start times of 9.00am and 1.30pm.

This means that for the two weeks after half term (Mon 26th Feb – Fri 8th March) we will be moving our lunch break forward an hour to 12.20pm. Students will have their usual period 3, then lunch followed by period 4 and 5.

**Year 10 Work Experience**

Year 10 Work Experience will be taking place during the week beginning 10th June 2024. Although it may seem that there is a long time left before this date, our experience has shown that the sooner students secure their placement the better!

We believe that Work Experience is really important as it gives students a valuable insight into the world of work. Students are required to complete a short form when finding their work placement which was attached to the letter given to students before Christmas. This letter should then be returned to Mr Sorrento or Mr Sewell by 26th January 2024. Students will then have an opportunity to complete the online form in the new year using an online platform called 'Unifrog.'

If students require any help finding a placement, we are here to help them. However, we strongly encourage students to be proactive in finding their own placement as it builds up a positive relationship between them and the company.

**Buy Nothing New Month**

Before you buy anything new for the next month, please help protect our pupils’ futures - and our planet - by considering:

Do you really need it?

Can you reuse or repair something that you already own?

Could you buy it second-hand instead?

**As part of our Buy Nothing New Month challenge, we are asking every student and member of staff to bring in a few items of clothing you no longer need to Miss Adcock (room HU2), by February half-term.**

**The clothing will be taken to a clothing recycling centre and the money raised will be split between our Food Bank and a children’s charity.**

In addition to this, we have 4 challenges for our students and families to complete before February half-term:

1) Rethink how you can use items you already have.
2) Embrace preloved and learn how to rehome the items you no longer need (see above for our clothing collection)

3) Give old stuff a second life by repairing it, rather than buying something new

4) Say no to buying something new.

Please email, or speak to, Miss Adcock (kadcock@cliffparkoa.co.uk) to share your challenge success!

**Karate Lessons**

The Academy have secured funding from active Norfolk for the delivery of Karate lessons. These take place on Monday and are delivered by The East Coast Black Belt school. This is a great opportunity to try something new and engaging and is completely FREE.  If you would like your child to join this group or even just come along for a taster please get them to come to the GYM on Monday after school (the session finishes at 16.15) and please complete this short form. <https://forms.office.com/e/JNfbLus8tG>

**Sports Taster Day at Easton College**

Easton College offer Performance & Excellence Sports pathways linked with FE Level 2/3 courses. We offer an “Academy” programme for football, rugby, golf and individual performers which run alongside academic learning at the College.

If your son or daughter is interested in finding out more they are holding a Sports Taster Day is on Tuesday 20th February with sessions throughout the day for each sport.

For more information email sam.howlett@ccn.ac.uk

**Norfolk County Youth Choir**

Norfolk county Youth Choir is a choir for young people from across Norfolk. Open to young people from Year 6 upwards there is no audition required. It is free to attend and all you need to join is love of singing and a desire to improve your skills. This is a good way to reconnect with live singing,

a relaxed and welcoming space to explore music, performance and share the fantastic benefits of singing together. <https://www.thegarage.org.uk/classes/>

**Calculators**

Calculators are a vital part of the Maths GCSE that students are able to use and understand a scientific calculator. It is essential, therefore, that students get to know and use their own calculator as different makes work in different ways. The best way to do this is to own and use your own calculator in every lesson. The recommended calculator used in the GCSE Maths exam is the Casio FX83GT-CW due to functions this calculator can perform which other calculators cannot.

They can be ordered now for the price of £9.20 from school which is cheaper than you can purchase elsewhere. Current Y11 students are encouraged to use the calculators that they are familiar with rather than changing at this stage.

If you are interested in purchasing a calculator you will need to pay it via parent pay. If your child is eligible for pupil premium please contact front office for more information.

**Heads of Year**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year 7 | Ms E Philips  |
| Year 8 | Mr S Cameron |
| Year 9 | Miss D Hall |
| Year 10 | Mr M Warnes |
| Year 11 | Mr R Callaby |

**Download class charts to track your child’s behaviour and achievements**

Class Charts will provide you with real-time information about your child’s achievements and informs you of any behaviour concerns immediately, if and when they happen. If you do not have an access code for Class Charts please contact reception.

You can access Class Charts by navigating to: <https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>

**Reminder of Upcoming Important Dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date**  | **Event**  |
| **Thursday 15th February** | **Online Parents Forum 6.00 pm**  |
| **19th – 23rd February** | **Half Term Break**  |
| **Thursday 13th March** | **Year 7 Parents Evening** |

**Improving attendance and Punctuality**

I would like to remind all parents and carers of their responsibilities to ensure that your child(ren) attend school every day. **Attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. This means it is your legal duty as a parent to send your child to school regularly.** By supporting your child’s attendance you will be supporting your child to achieve.

Please refer to the following table to calculate the impact of absence on your child’s attendance to lesson and missed learning:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **An absence of ….** | **Leads to …** | **Which is**  | **%** |
| Missing a morning or afternoon session every two weeks. | 2 weeks of school missed over a full academic year or 50 hours of learning missed | 23 weeks of school missed over your child’s five year school career or 575 hours of learning missed | 95 |
| Missing a day of school every two weeks | 4 weeks of school missed over a full academic year or 100 hours of learning missed | 47 weeks of school missed over your child’s five year school career or 1,175 hours of learning missed | 90 |
| Missing a day of school every week | 8 weeks of school missed over a full academic year or 200 hours of learning missed  | 91 weeks of school missed over your child’s five year school career or 2,275 hours of learning missed | 80 |

It is worth noting that academic research suggests that just 17 days of absence across a five year school career will lead to a 1 grade reduction is academic performance for each of their subjects.

Our expectation for **school attendance in 2023/24 is 96% and above for all students**. We would like to see as many students as possible reach the 100% threshold and receive additional rewards and incentives for their hard work and commitment.

Students must be on site by **8.25am**. Students who are late to school without a parental note or valid reason will be issued with a sanction on the same day that they arrived late to school. Please note that anyone arriving after 9.00 am will need to enter through front reception.

**Leave of Absence**

We expect every pupil’s attendance at school to be 100% unless there are exceptional or unavoidable reasons for absence. Parents do not have any legal entitlement to take their child on holiday during term time. It is the Headteacher who decides whether a period of leave during term time will be authorised or not in line with legislation. The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (amended in September 2013) make it clear that Headteachers cannot grant any leave of absence during term time unless ‘exceptional circumstances’ exist.

Every request for leave of absence during term time will reviewed on an individual basis with due consideration of the circumstances but the Headteacher can only grant leave of absence if they consider exceptional circumstances apply. If the exceptional circumstances are agreed, the Headteacher will determine the length of the absence to be authorised.

All requests for leave of absence should be made in advance and before any arrangements are confirmed or money committed.  Failure to make a request for a leave of absence in advance will result in the absence taken being recorded as unauthorised.

**Food Bank**

If you find yourselves in need of additional support around food and toiletries, please contact the school office and we can arrange a food parcel for collection at our reception.The reception telephone number is 01493661504 or email enquiries@cliffparkoa.co.uk

Thank you for supporting us in maintaining the high standards that we know you expect from Cliff Park Ormiston Academy.

Have a brilliant weekend

Mr H French

**Principal**

**Please see below term dates for 2023 - 2024**



