

22 February 2022

Dear all Parents & Carers

I hope you all had an enjoyable half-term week and are enjoying the recent return of sunshine after some inclement weather!

As you will know, yesterday, the government released their plans to support the public coming out of the pandemic through their 'Living with Covid-19' publication. Although the document is extensive and covers a wide range of facets, I wanted to make clear what the main implications on education are:

1. There is no longer a need for staff or students to complete testing at home, twice weekly. We can still provide tests for students and families if they wish to continue with this security, but there is no obligation to do so. We will also have our regular deliveries of testing kits stopped, so after our existing supply runs out - we will not be able to provide any more.
2. From this Thursday, self-isolation is no longer a legal requirement. Although the government advice is to remain at home for a period of 5 days, if someone tests positive, to avoid further spreading of infection.
3. Eventually, testing as a whole will be phased out. The first phase of this is the stopping of lateral flow testing, and the second phase of this (from April) is the limiting of PCR testing to vulnerable groups.

Our advice to you if your child becomes unwell, is to simply follow the normal processes you would do. If your child is too unwell to come to school, then please call in and explain the reasons for their absence. If they have Covid related symptoms they should remain at home. If their symptoms persist, you should seek the guidance of your GP. As we have done throughout the pandemic, we want our students in school, and we will continue to encourage positive attendance to school.

As we always do at the start of new terms, we remind students of our expectations around a number of elements of school life. Two that I would like to focus on with you are uniform and mobile phones. Both we have a standard for. I say this a lot to the students, but every school has a standard. A standard that they deem appropriate for that 'thing'. These standards may differ from school to school, but students should respect the standards that their school elects to adopt.

Our uniform standards can be found on our website using the link below. I hope you find this information clear and easy to understand:

<https://www.cityofpeterboroughacademy.org/page/?title=Uniform&pid=56>

We have had some confusion recently over items, particularly trousers and shoes, that have been purchased from 'school sections' of suppliers and retailers. Please note, that students are not permitted to wear 'jean style' or 'legging style' trousers, or 'trainer/vans style' shoes. We will always look to work with you, not against you, to ensure your child has the correct uniform that meets the Academy's standard on that specific item of uniform.

I have also attached the slide that has been shared with all students in assemblies this week, around mobile phones. I fully appreciate there are schools up and down the country that permit mobile phones, and there schools up and down the country who do not. We have simply made the decision, and always have since the Academy opened, to not permit mobile phones. I make no apologies for this, and simply ask for your support in ensuring that your child understands the reasons why we have made this decision. Unfortunately, you do not have to take very long to find stories and media reports of mobile phones being at the centre of social issues between young people, and adults. Part of our job is to educate the students on making the right and safe choices when using social media platforms, but also make it very clear when we expect them not to be used.

If you wish for your child to have their mobile phone on them to and from school, this is absolutely fine and understandable. If students do this, we ask them to hand their phones in to their Year Team in the morning when they arrive and they are locked away for the day, and students collect them on their way out of school at the end of the day. This process is supervised by a member of staff.

As always, if you have any questions or need some support regarding any matters above, or in general, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Academy.

Kind Regards

Mr B Pearce  
Principal



# Mobile Phones



There has been an update of the mobile phone policy. Please read and understand the following which can be found on the behaviour policy, on the schools website:

The use of mobile phones is banned at the Academy. Should a student wish to bring their mobile phone to school they may do so, but must be handed in to the year team member on duty when they arrive who will collect and store phones safely and securely during the school day.

If students use their mobile phones to take photos or videos at school, escalated sanctions will apply including (but not limited to) isolation, internal exclusion, ASP, or suspension.

If phones are seen or heard during the school day, the phone will be confiscated, and the following sanctions applied:

- First offence – 30 minutes after school detention
- Second offence – 60 minutes after school detention
- Third offence – Reflection room and 60 minutes after school detention
- Further offences – ASP or other appropriate escalations will apply

20 February 2022

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