



The Armthorpe School

A Specialist School in The Arts and Sport



15th December 2009

Dear Parent/Carer

As we draw towards the end of the Autumn term, I write to make you aware of important arrangements.

On Friday, December 18th, the last day of term, students will go to their form tutors at 2.05 pm and will be dismissed at 2.30 pm.

If the early finish for students is likely to cause any inconvenience, please inform the appropriate Head of Year, so that arrangements can be made for your child to remain in school until 2.55 pm.

The Spring term for students begins on Tuesday, January 5th at 8.30 am.

I am very grateful for the support which I have received from parents during my first term at The Armthorpe School. It is my strong impression that the school deserves its reputation for student welfare, and high expectations of all learners in terms of their behaviour and progress. In order to maintain our standards, I would ask you to note the following points:

Attendance

Any absence from school affects a child's educational progress. Absence from school due to a family holiday is regarded as avoidable absence and will not be approved by the school. We do not want to appear insensitive about the difficulties which exist in the current economic climate, but our experience, and national research into the impact of absence, shows that lost learning opportunities affect young people's life chances.

Safety

As you will be aware, the national and local priorities with regard to keeping children safe have particular implications for schools. In the New Year, we will be introducing measures to make the school site safer for students. This will include the introduction of a staff presence at the front of school before and after school, and the identification of particular entrances/ exits for pedestrians or vehicles. Another feature of the measures will be to prohibit parents driving onto the school site. Special arrangements will be made for parents of students whose physical needs require exceptions to be made, and those who have appointments. Once again, I am aware that these measures will not be popular with some parents, but none, I am sure, will argue that students' safety on the school site should not be among our highest priorities.

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Uniform

The vast majority of our students continue to wear their uniform with pride. Unfortunately, there are still some who appear to believe that they are exempt from the rules. I would be grateful for parents' continuing support on this matter. It is particularly important that all students wear shoes which comply with our uniform regulations and that blazers are worn at all times. Jewellery and nail varnish are not allowed. Facial piercing, including tongue piercing, is not acceptable and will result in parents being contacted.

On a more positive note, I am pleased to be able to draw your attention to our revamped website. This is becoming an increasingly important means of communication between school and home, and I would urge you to make suggestions as to how it might be improved further (www.armthorpeschool.org.uk).

I would like to thank those parents who took the trouble to respond to questionnaires at this term's parents' evenings for year 7 and the sixth form. The outcome will be published on the website. During next term, we will inform you of some of the other ways in which we intend to consult you in the future.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas, and to offer my very best wishes for the New Year.

Yours sincerely



Andy Cope
Headteacher

Important dates/events – Spring Term

Friday 8 th January gone out to parents)	:	Whole School Review Day (separate letter has
Monday 11 th to 26 th	:	Year 11 Mock Exams
Tuesday 26 th January	:	
Thursday 14 th January	:	Sixth Form Opportunities Evening
Tuesday 26 th January	:	Year 9 Option/Parents' Evening
Friday 12 th February	:	School closes for Spring Half-Term
Monday 22 nd February	:	School returns.
Thursday 25 th February	:	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 11 th March	:	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Thursday 1 st April	:	School closes for Easter
Monday 19 th April	:	School returns