



THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Part of The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust

April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We welcome everyone back to the summer term of the academic year. I hope you all had a lovely Easter break. This is a busy term and an important one for those students in Years 11 and 13 who will be sitting their final assessments over the next few weeks. This term is also important for Years 7-10 and 12 in ensuring that they are making the progress that is expected in preparation for next year.

Staffing

Congratulations to Mrs Robinson and Mrs Seabright who have both recently given birth.

Curriculum

As an academy, we continue to review and improve the subjects that we offer our students to ensure that they receive a broad, balanced and holistic educational experience.

Due to the pandemic, our Year 8 students will now be choosing their options next year in Year 9. This will also apply to the current Year 7 students.

Rapid Flow testing

I encourage parents/carers to support the effort to test our students twice weekly with the home testing kits. It is vitally important we do all we can to keep ourselves and each other safe. I also remind parents/carers NOT to send in any student who is displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 and to immediately book a PCR test. Any household with a potentially symptomatic person needs to self-isolate pending PCR tests, including siblings.

Attendance and Punctuality

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the importance of good attendance and punctuality. Attendance and punctuality are key to educational achievement. This term we will continue to enforce both our attendance and punctuality policies. Please be aware that attendance that is less than 95% is considered to be poor attendance and could have a detrimental effect on your child's progress.

From Tuesday 4th May all students are expected to arrive at the academy from 8.30am until 8.45am, after which students will be recorded a late.

Aldbrough Road South Drop-off / Pick-Up

Parents/carers will know how busy the road outside Bede reception can be in the morning and afternoon. I am growing increasingly concerned for the safety of our children due to inconsiderate drivers who flout the parking restrictions and drive recklessly. Some of these drivers are our parents/carers. For the sake of our children's

safety, please adhere to the restrictions on the road, slow down and be more considerate of children crossing the road.

Academy Updates

This year we have successfully introduced virtual Parental Consultation Evenings with Years 13, 11, 10 and 8 already taken place. Dates for future Virtual Parental Consultations evenings are as follows:

Year 9 – Wednesday 16th June – 4pm to 7pm

Year 7 – Wednesday 30th June – 4pm to 7pm

Year 12 – Wednesday 7th July – 4pm to 7pm

Term Dates for Academic Year 2021-2022

I enclose the term dates for the next academic year from September 2021 to July 2022. These are also available on the website.

Diary Dates

The academy will be closed on Monday 3rd May for the Early May Bank Holiday. The academy will re-open on Tuesday 4th May at 8.30am.

Our remaining two Staff inset Days are to be held on the following days, students are not to attend on these days:

Friday 21st May 2021

Monday 7th June 2021

A Level and GCSE Results Days

The A Level and GCSE grades will be released this summer on the following dates:

A Level - Tuesday 10th August 2021

GCSE - Thursday 12th August 2021

Yours faithfully



Mr P Downey
Headteacher