



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

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Dear Parent/Carer

This academic year has certainly had its challenges and, as we reach the end of this extraordinary year, I am writing to share some important information about the end of term and the beginning of the next academic year. I would like to take some time to thank you for the support you've all given your children at Atlantic Academy over the past year and particularly since March. Despite the school closures, this year has been filled with so many fantastic events and student achievements that the time has flown by. We continue to be incredibly proud of all of our students as they develop their confidence and define their own character to become independent young adults ready to leave us in Year 11. We are, as ever, incredibly impressed with the commitment and compassion of all our students who dedicate themselves to their school work and extra-curricular activities. They are the real heart of the school and the community of Portland.

End of term and Summer Holidays

Even during the Covid Crisis, it has been a very busy summer term at Atlantic and, after a full and successful year, the summer term ends on **Friday 17th July** when the school will close at **3.05pm** for the summer break. We remained open since the start of the lockdown and our staff have worked incredibly hard, through Easter and the May half term, to ensure everyone has been looked after. We've finally received confirmation in writing from the DfE that schools and colleges will not be required to remain open over the summer holiday for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Therefore, we will not be open over the summer so that we can all have some downtime to regroup and recharge ready for September.

We can confirm that providers offering paid childcare will be able to operate over the summer holidays in line with protective measures guidance. Additional funded activities will be available in Dorset, such as the Holiday Activities and Food scheme - Summer in Dorset (**SiD**), for those students identified as vulnerable; DC will contact families directly to book these opportunities.

Catch up

With regard to the much publicised 'catchup' sessions that have been widely talked about in the press and the additional money allocated to schools to run these, we are again still waiting for details from the Government of what this will look like. What we do know is that schools may have some freedom to allocate the funding where we see the need. Part of our task in September will be to identify any gaps in student learning and target the support to 'plug' these areas; the format of this support is yet to be decided.

Reports

Students should receive their end of Unit 3 reports this week. These reports have a different focus: engagement with their online learning.

Parental Feedback on virtual learning

We sent out a google feedback form and I thought you would like me to share your thoughts. Thank you for taking the time to complete this and, as ever, your comments and views continue to enable us to reflect and reassure us on best practice moving forward. I am really proud of the feedback we have received and it was lovely to receive so many thank you messages to our staff. It really was appreciated by myself and all the staff at Atlantic. In times of challenge, this situation really has brought us together as a community and we look forward to these positive relationships developing further when we open in September. We had over 250 responses and here is a summary of what parents/carers said:



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- How often has your child accessed online learning? **83%** accessed it **daily** and a further **9%** at **least 3 times a week**
- How easy have you found accessing the online resources? **91%** found it **easy or very easy**
- How do you rate the quality of the online resources? **93% Excellent to Good** :
 Excellent (38%); Very Good (34%); Good (21%)
- Would you recommend the online learning resources to another parent? **91%** said **Yes**
- Has your child still felt part of the Atlantic community? **75%** Yes and **15%** unsure
- Have you and your child been communicated with well during the school closure? **96%** said **Yes**
- Has your child received positive praise or points during the school closure? **94%** said **Yes**
- Has the school been well led during the school closure? **97%** said **Yes**

Secondary Virtual Opening Evening

Normally in July we would have invited the wider Portland community into our academy for our Open Evening which consists of a short presentation from myself and a tour of the academy from our wonderful students. This year it has not been possible, so we decided to film a virtual tour with some of our newly formed **student leadership team**. We also thought you may like to see it so please follow the [link](#) here. If you know anyone that is interested in coming to Atlantic in the next few years, we would really appreciate it if you could share this link with them to give them an idea of our amazing facilities and why students love learning at Atlantic.



September 2020 Opening: Start of Term Arrangements

The arrangements for the start of the new term have been shared with you and we look forward to welcoming all our students back on **Monday 7th September 2020**.

Reminder of Staggered Start times

All students should arrive in the courtyard, at the staggered start times for their year group, and go straight to line up with their tutor/teacher:

- Year 7 8: 30am
- Year 8 8: 30am
- Year 9 8: 30am
- Year 10 8: 45am
- Year 11 8: 45am

We will continue with these staggered start times to support the reopening of our secondary phase to all students. We will review it regularly and communicate any changes.

Staggered End times

Students will be escorted class by class to the school gate at the staggered end time:

- Year 7/8/9 Begin to leave the building 14:45pm
- Year 10/11 Begin to leave the building 15:00pm

Staffing Update At the end of our third year as Atlantic Academy, I wish to give you a staffing update for September 2020. I would like to thank the following staff for their commitment, hard work and passion for their subjects. Whilst we are all incredibly sad to say goodbye and will miss them, we also wish them every success in their future careers. So on behalf of all the staff at Atlantic, I would like to say a huge thank you and goodbye to:

Goodbyes: August 2020

- Mr Rob Beale: Relocating to London to pursue a career nearer to home, family and friends
- Miss Brianna Fairbank: A promotion as Lead practitioner - English for another trust based in Bournemouth
- Miss Ellie Healey: Head of Chemistry in a school that will enable her to relocate back home to Yorkshire to be nearer family and friends
- Mrs Angela Tolland: Continuing her career as a maths teacher but nearer to her home in Yeovil
- Miss Natasha Westlake: Relocating home to Devon to be nearer family and friends

Starters : September 2020:

- Miss Oriol Delage-Pandeli - SENDCo/MFL Teacher
- Miss Tegan Maw - Science Teacher
- Miss Ellie Pelych - Geography Teacher
- Mr Chris Wadley - Deputy Subject Coordinator English

I would also like to take the opportunity to publicly thank all the staff at Atlantic who have gone above and beyond, during lockdown, to support all the students in our care. They have provided a fantastic virtual classroom for their subjects, have continued to form really positive relationships through the weekly phone calls with our students, and strengthened our pastoral care.

As we draw towards the end of what has been probably one of the most challenging school terms/ years any of us have ever experienced, I wanted to say thank you – thank you for your trust in us and thank you for all your support over the past academic year.

We are incredibly proud of everything Atlantic has achieved and couldn't have done any of it without our fantastic teachers, students, parents and community. Have a wonderful summer and see you all in September.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Bishop
Principal of Secondary