



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal of Primary
Mrs Bishop - Principal of Secondary

Maritime House
Southwell Business Park
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7th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well and coping with all the changes and restrictions that a lockdown and tier 2 have brought. At school we are continuing to operate the same systems for reducing the potential risk of Covid19 infection. I would like to thank all parents and carers for your support in sending the children into school equipped with a face covering; this has helped us keep the children in school.

As you will be aware, Dorset has been placed in **Tier 2** following the end of the national lockdown . Whilst this does mean some greater freedom for all of us, there are also lots of limitations to our daily lives.

Last day of term

I wanted to confirm the last day of term for us is **Friday 18th December**. We will finish at the normal time: Year 7/8/9 at 2:45pm and Year 10 & 11 at 3.00pm.

Attendance

You are doing a wonderful job in ensuring your children attend school every day. On 26 November, attendance in national state-funded secondary schools was 78%. However, the Atlantic **Secondary attendance** was **94.1%** last week, compared to 91.2% for the same week in 2019. This is a significant improvement and a huge community effort to keep our children in school during the pandemic- thank you!

Christmas Track and Trace

The government has decided that all schools will remain fully open for the last week. **Therefore, it is important that any relevant information regarding a positive Covid test** is shared with us. During the first week of the holidays, school staff will be required to support 'track-and-trace' in any cases where students may have come into contact with someone who had a positive test at the end of term. To share information in relation to this, please use the **safeguarding contact** link on our website [here](#)

Free School Meals

We have been advised by the DfE that there will be additional support over the Christmas period for families in receipt of Free School Meals. As of yet we do not have the details of how this will operate, but we will advise you as soon as we hear anything. If your circumstances have changed and you may be eligible to claim for Free School Meals, or if you would like some advice or support on how to claim, please contact Miss Fowler zfowler@atlantic-aspirations.org or click on the link on our website [here](#). One of the consequences of Covid-19 has been a national increase in the number of families who now find themselves entitled to this additional support.

Online Parents' Evening

Last week we held our first online Parents' Evening in primary and initial responses seem to suggest it was successful. Those of you who have made contact have said that you liked being able to see all teachers without the queue and you also liked the privacy. Once we have done the Year 11 evening this week (Thursday 10th) and the Year 9 next week (Tuesday 15th), we will be sending out a questionnaire to those parents to gain more feedback to help us improve the process. The Parent Evening Link is : atlanticacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk



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The dates for the other Year groups Parents evening are:

Date	Can Book From
19 Jan - Y8 Virtual Parents' Eve	5th Jan 2021
24th Feb - Y11 Virtual Progress Eve	8th Feb 2021
25th Mar- Y10 Virtual Parents' Eve	11th Mar 2021
30th Mar - Y7 Virtual Parents' Eve	15th Mar 2021

Year 11 PPe results

During tutor time on Thursday 10th December, ahead of Parents' Evening, Year 11 will collect their PPE results envelope which contain their Unit 1 reports. It would be great if you are able to go through the results with your child prior to parents' evening or have it to hand during the evening.

Unit 1 Progress Celebration (Virtual) Assembly and Reports

On Friday 11th December, Years 7-9 will have Virtual Progress Assemblies and will be receiving reports containing their Unit 1 results. The Assemblies will celebrate the progress the students have made during Unit 1, from September until November. Please remind students to share their reports with you on Friday so you can go through their results and attitudes to learning together.

Student rewards and praise

The staff have been working on developing the range of ways in which we can reward students for the excellent work and behaviour that most of them display every day. We will be holding virtual celebration assemblies on Tuesday 15th December to give out prizes for students who are excellent role models for our Academy values of Character, Commitment and Confidence which is seen through good attendance, high positive points and excellent effort and/or attainment in their lessons

Santa Dash and Sports Advent

Friday 11th December we will join thousands of children across the country for the schools games virtual Santa Dash. It is easy to do and it is something the whole school can do, and will only take a few minutes out of the school day. It is based around doing a 1 mile run, walk, or simply 15 minutes of an activity of our choice. The idea is that each year group will take part in their 10-15 minutes of activity at the same time as all the other children in their year group across the country. You





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will upload pictures to social media and see what other schools/children/staff got up to at the same time from Cornwall up to Carlisle!

SIMs

The Trust is migrating our Management Information System (MIS) from Progreso to SIMs this week. Part of migration means that you will need the SIMs Parent app which will be free to download. However, we need to test this first before we can send an invite to all parents and carers. Please bear with us during this transition period. We expect sometime early in the new year, we will write to you about next steps and you will then receive an email with information on how to log onto SIMs and be sent a code that is unique to your child. This will allow you to use the new SIMs Parent App.

Summer exams 2021

The Department for Education has confirmed this week that there will be some amendments made to the way that students are assessed this summer. Mrs Migliari has written separately to Year 11 parents and carers confirming a summary of the adaptations, however, the final detail will not be released until January 2021. It is good news that some consideration has been given to the disruption that these students have faced. The main indication is that the government will keep pass rates in line with those of Summer 2020.

Thank you for your continued support, end of term newsletter out next week.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Bishop
Principal of Secondary