



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

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

Maritime House
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22nd July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Student

Well what a year it has been and it has certainly had its challenges. 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 over the past year. 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. We are, as ever, incredibly impressed with the commitment and compassion of all our students and they are the real heart of the school and the community of Portland.

Next Steps

As you will all be aware by now, we have moved to 'Step 4' in the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. Further to this, the Department for Education has published additional guidance for schools. The headline news is that in September we will be able to resume what would be considered as normal working practices. This will come as a great relief to our students and staff.

Key Points

- There is no requirement to keep students apart in what we came to call 'Year Group Bubbles'.
- There is no requirement for students not to mix with children from other year groups outside of lesson time.
- It will mean that all communal areas and specialist learning spaces can be used by all students and staff once again.
- Full extra-curricular activities will be able to resume.
- There will be no automatic requirement to self-isolate if a student, or teacher, has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. It is hoped this will end the mass closing down of school bubbles and keep students across the country in school.

COVID 19 Testing

The recommendations for schools have stated that secondary school students should be tested twice on their return to school. The two tests do not have to be taken before students can return to classrooms after the holiday. However, we have decided that the first test will be taken before the students, in Year 10 & 11, return to their normal timetable and that the second test will be taken, as advised, between 3-5 days later.

Start of term

In September we will start phased testing for all secondary students. If you agree your child will need to have 2 Lateral flow tests on site at the start of term. A letter with the consent form has already been shared with you but here is a reminder of those timings:

Year	First Test	First Test : Date	Second Test	Second Test : Date
7	Test & stay	Friday 3rd September 2021	Test & stay	8th September 2021 (P1)
10	Test and leave	Friday 3rd September 2021 at 10:00am *	Test & stay	8th September 2021 (P2)
11	Test and leave	Friday 3rd September 2021 at 11:00 am*	Test & stay	8th September 2021 (P3)
8	Test & stay	Monday 6th September 2021	Test & stay	10th September 2021 (P1)
9	Test & stay	Monday 6th September 2021	Test & stay	10th September 2021 (P2)



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There are recommendations for all schools to follow what is regarded as best practice and we will certainly do so. Hand sanitising will continue to be encouraged and the benefits of well-ventilated rooms have also been learned. As you already know, we decided to continue with virtual Parents' Evenings due to the positive feedback we received. We are pleased that this confirmation means our new academy day can take effect from September 2021. A reminder table is at the bottom of this letter.

Timings of the day

To support a staggered end of the day with public transport, and following feedback, KS3 students will leave at 2:55pm, slightly earlier than KS4 students.

Timings of the Day		
	Years 7-9	Years 10-11
Gate opens/Closes - dining hall or outside areas only	7.45 to 8.27	7.45 to 8.27
Registration	8.30	8.30
1	09:00	09:00
2	10:00	10:00
Morning Break	11:00	11:00
3	11:30	11:30
4	12:30	12:30
Lunch/Afternoon Break	13:30	13:30
5	14:00	14:00
End of Day	14:55	15:05
Directed homework support / Late detentions ENRICHMENT	15.05 to 16.15	

Risky behaviour and risks to young people in the holiday period

We have been asked to remind you that often during the summer holidays young people can be tempted to participate in activities which might be risky. As we emerge from Covid restrictions then there is concern across Dorset, that this might be on the rise this year. As ever, please be aware of where your children are and who they might be socialising with. Young people can become the target for criminal exploitation and seaside towns can be a particular target area for such activity. Perpetrators of these activities are very sophisticated in the way they approach young people and will be present where young people gather

Staffing Update

At the end of year, I wish to give you a staffing update for September 2021. As ever at this time of the year we sadly have to say goodbye and thank you to some staff who are leaving us. 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:



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Angus Dawson who has decided to start his retirement after nearly 30 years teaching. 25 of these years have been spent at our various locations in Portland. Mr Dawson has been such a vital part of our school and the Portland community. He's had the wonderful opportunity of having taught multiple generations in Portland and I know there is a long line of students and parents who can talk of fond memories of his years working here and the opportunities he has provided to develop and drive education in Portland. I know you will join me in wishing Mr Dawson every happiness in his retirement, he will be sorely missed at Atlantic, as he starts his next phase and enjoys a well earned break from the teaching profession - for now!!

Jayne Miles-Simmonite will be returning to Budmouth Academy as a Lead Practitioner in September. Jayne has been with us from the start of Atlantic in September 2017 in the History Department as well as running a highly successful Thinking Reading program which ensured all students that left Atlantic had reached their appropriate reading age. We wish her all the best in her new role next year.

I would also like to take the opportunity to publicly thank all the staff at Atlantic who have gone above and beyond this year 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 with our students, and strengthened our pastoral care.

New appointments

We have had a busy term of recruitment to make sure that we are fully staffed for the academic year 2021/22. It has been really great to have received a large number of applications for the posts we have advertised and, significantly, we have attracted interest from a number of talented staff. From September 2021, **Harry Everett** will be adding capacity to our PE department as we continue to expand with an increasing number of students on roll year on year. Harry has been training at Exeter University this year, after a previous career working for the top Rugby Union league for the Celtic Nations plus Italian and South African teams.

In History, we will welcome **Amy Albin** who is relocating from Yorkshire back to her hometown in Dorset. Amy has been training at Huddersfield University this year following the completion of her Masters Degree in History.

Andy David joins the Trust as **Director of Student Leadership and Aspirations** and he will be working with students at Atlantic across both Primary and Secondary one day a week to support their Personal Development.

Finally, I wanted to say thank you for your trust in us and 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