



# Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

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Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As we come to the end of a very busy and successful term there is so much for us to celebrate and be proud of. Many of your children will have been involved in multiple activities and events, taking full advantage of all the opportunities offered to them. Although we have not escaped totally from the impact of COVID precautions, it has been so wonderful to see and hear school returning to whatever is now the new normal in many aspects.

We have been able to reintroduce many of the ever so important extracurricular activities that really do provide the opportunity to enrich students' educational experiences and enable us to offer the 'whole' educational experience incorporated into our vision - *"At Atlantic we embody the values of Character, Commitment, and Confidence to enable students to adapt and thrive in an evolving world, providing an education that inspires and empowers students to determine and achieve their goals"*. I would like to take this opportunity to say how impressed I have been with the vast majority taking the challenges in their stride.

We certainly have not totally avoided the implications of COVID with students, staff and families being affected, however once again the way in which the Atlantic community has drawn together and supported each other through these times has been incredible. We don't yet know what lies ahead and what the effects of things such as new variants will be. What I do know is that we will continue to do our very best to protect the education of all of our students while at the same time ensuring the whole of our school community is as safe as we can possibly make it. Can I thank all of you for your continued support in helping us make this happen.

## Parent Forum

We have recently held our parent forums, these were incredibly positive and we want to continue to build on this and communicate with our community far more! Please see [our website](#) for the minutes of these meetings, or the [google form](#) if you wish to be part of these

## Testing in School - 4th-5th January 2022

The Department for Education states that all educational and childcare settings should continue to encourage staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests. The school will continue to issue these test kits directly to the pupils. The Department for Education has also instructed schools to test students for Covid-19 on their return from the Christmas holiday.

For a school of our size this will mean **staggered start times for Year 11 on Tuesday 4th January and Year 7-10 on Wednesday 5th January 2022** to start the Spring term, and I can only apologise for the inconvenience that these **delayed start times** may cause. You will note that we have prioritised the return of year groups that have public exams

this year.

Tests will be conducted in school and all students will then remain in school if a negative test is returned and positive tests will be followed by ten days of isolation. Please refer to the testing schedule grid below to find out when your son or daughter will be tested and when they will return to school.

Year Group	Day	Date	Staggered Start Time
11	Tuesday	4th Jan	15 minutes before mentor meeting on INSET
11	Wednesday	4th Jan	08:27
7	Wednesday	5th Jan	09:00
8	Wednesday	5th Jan	10.00
9	Wednesday	5th Jan	11.30
10	Wednesday	5th Jan	12:30

### Vaccination

All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters. Vaccines are recommended by the government as our best defence against COVID-19. The Government says that vaccines help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them.

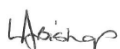
Evidence says that vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on. The NHS have been offering appointments from **Saturday 27th November, 7 days a week, from 9.30am – 4.30pm**. To make an appointment, we ask that you email the NHS ([dhc.covid1215appointments@nhs.net](mailto:dhc.covid1215appointments@nhs.net)) with your child's name, school and tutor group and they will email you an appointment slot and further details. Please note that guidance has changed recently and now healthy children in this age-group are required to wait 90 days after a positive COVID test result before having the COVID vaccination.

### Summer exams 2022

The Department for Education has confirmed that there will be some amendments made to the way that students are assessed this summer. In the majority of cases, subjects have had subject content removed or reduced to make up for the high rates of absences in schools nationally. 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 2021. Class teachers will inform the pupils of these changes directly, but if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school and we will ask relevant staff to get back to you.

As we look towards the Christmas holiday, the school is a hive of activity and with our current COVID cases low in number and some adjustments in place, we have tried to keep the end of term as near to normal as possible with the addition of our annual Christmas lunches and our faculty celebration assemblies where students will receive awards for character, confidence and commitment. Additionally, tutor groups will have an extra session together on Friday afternoon. I am sure you will appreciate that we will need to continue to monitor the situation and keep these events under review. Can I take this opportunity to wish your family a restful and enjoyable festive season and wish you good tidings for the New Year. Merry Christmas! We look forward to welcoming back our students on Wednesday 5 January.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Lesley Bishop Principal of Secondary