

07th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well and that the half term break has been good for your children. I wanted to write to you today to point ahead to some notable dates and events coming up in this, the final term of the academic year 2020-21.

However, it is with a heavy heart, I must begin this letter by informing you that, regrettably, despite extensive negotiations, the members of the National Education Union (NEU) at Pimlico Academy have decided to move to strike action. The first day of the strike will be tomorrow, Tuesday 8th June. This comes as a huge blow but I am determined that it will have minimal impact on our students who have already missed out on enough in-school education this year due to Covid-19. To that end, please see below for an outline of our plan for tomorrow.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9:

The academy will be open as usual to all students in these year groups, with the gates opening at 8am and the school day finishing at 3pm. Students will have a carousel of activities, including lessons and sports activities. Students should wear academy PE kit to school tomorrow and remember to bring in a pencil case and their usual equipment.

Students in Years 10 and 12:

Students are asked to revise from home. The important assessments they were scheduled to sit tomorrow will be moved back to Wednesday and a new timetable for subsequent assessments will be published.

Please see here for a link to a statement from Future Academies:

<https://www.pimlico.futureacademies.org/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=31>

Assessments

Students in Years 10 and 12 have commenced their end-of-year assessments today. They each have a copy of their individual exam timetable and have been briefed by staff about which topics they should revise for. These assessments are important and we are holding them in formal exam conditions; you will appreciate that this experience will be a helpful preparation for the formal public exams they will sit next year, when exam regulations are rigorous and closely regulated by the exam boards. We do, however, encourage students to keep a sense of perspective about them: their results in these exams help to inform our discussions about a student's predicted GCSE or A Level grades but they do not define them. My advice to them is to use them as an opportunity to show us what they are made of but not to become overly stressed about them. (I am more than aware that that is much more easily said than done!).

Breakfast Club

For the week ahead, students will be able to attend Breakfast Club in the canteen between 07:45 and 08:15 on the following days:

Monday: Year 7 students; Tuesday: Year 8 students; Wednesday: Year 9 students; Thursday: Year 10 students; Friday: Year 12 students.

Students can get free toast, cereal, fruit and juice, and other items will be available to buy.

From Monday 14th June, we will open Breakfast Club each day to all students from any year group. Students in different year groups will be socially distanced from each other, to maintain the integrity of Covid 'bubbles' in the academy.

Coffee mornings for parents and carers

I will be hosting coffee mornings for parents and carers between 8.30am and 9.30am on the following days in the coming weeks:

- Tuesday 15th June: for parents and carers of students in Y8
- Wednesday 16th June: for parents and carers of students in Y10
- Friday 18th June: for parents and carers of students in Y7
- Monday 21st June: for parents and carers of students in Y9

There is no need to book, so do just arrive to reception between 8.30 and 9.00. I hope to meet many of you at these. If you cannot make the day scheduled but would still like to have a conversation with me, do please contact me at principal@pimlico.futureacademies.org to arrange a time.

Parents' Evenings this term

There will be a Parents' Evenings for students in Year 7 and in Year 12 over the coming few weeks. These will be held remotely and further details about how you will be able to logon and meet with a student's teachers will be sent to you nearer the time. These will, I hope, be a good opportunity for you to hear how about the academic progress of your child.

Pimlico Academy Summer Festival 2021

The Summer Festival is, as many of you know, is an annual academy highlight. Last year, due to Covid restrictions, the event could not take place. The easing of Covid restrictions on 21st June is still in the air, of course, but we are planning for this year's event, to take place after school on 12th July, with optimism that it will be able to go ahead. I will send out further details nearer the time but, for now, do pencil the date in your diary.

My assemblies this week focus on how hugely ambitious I am for each of our students and I conclude with a number of quotations that encourage them to "dream big" (Marcus Rashford), "live every day as if it is your last day" (Marcus Aurelius) and remember that "life's for living" (my Mum). I am looking forward to this last term of the academic year and to seeing students flourish in every way.

With all best wishes,



Tony Oulton
Acting Principal