

Our Ref: 2019/041/AND/Lmm



11 December 2019

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Dear Parent/Carer

I write to you at the end of my first term as Principal of Amington and I continue to be inspired by the warmth and potential of the children and community I serve.

I must firstly bring your attention to our anti-bullying programme: Amington Against Bullying. This programme will see the introduction of anti-bullying ambassadors in every year group, tutor time discussions and, in the new year, group assemblies from a trained mentor. The pressure on children in the modern age is immense, these pressures are often driven by social media and are sometimes brought into the Academy. We do not tolerate bullying and I hope that our anti-bullying ambassadors and our anti-bullying provision will send a strong message to those who act inappropriately towards others.

Upcoming dates for your diary:

Wednesday 18 December 2019: Food bank donations deadline

Friday 20 December 2019: Early closure; the final day of term will end at 12:15. Students must attend in full uniform.

Monday 6 January 2020: Term 3 starts; students return to the Academy. Our doors open at 08:30 for a prompt 08:45 start in tutor time.

Thank you to those parent/carers who have attended the Principal drop-in sessions this year. They will continue to run every Friday 09.00-10.30 with an early evening drop-in once per half-term. Any parent/carer who wishes to raise an issue or an idea for Academy improvement is most welcome.

SEND drop-ins for families of children with SEND will continue in the new year. All families of SEND children are welcome to provide us with valuable feedback as well as networking amongst other parents at these events.

To further improve our communication, the Academy has partnered with Talaxy. Talaxy will provide you with not only a more effective method of receiving messages from the Academy but will also provide regular updates on attendance, punctuality, rewards and behaviour. You will be provided with log-in details shortly.

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Please be reminded that in the New Year, no cars will be allowed onto the Academy site between 08:00 and 16:00 (unless you have an appointment). Following a consultation period, I will be responding to those individuals who made important responses to this process. This action is intended to keep our children as safe as possible whilst on our site.

Some examples of positive feedback into the Academy directly from the drop-ins are:

- a simplified reporting template
- initiation of a PTA which will begin in January
- homework timetables
- enrichment activities spread across the year rather than in one week
- bike permits

I would like to remind you of our uniform expectations. No trainers or hoodies are allowed. Students wearing incorrect uniform will be challenged and provided with loan uniform from the Academy until the issue is resolved. Please ensure that your child's uniform is appropriate for the new term. On the specific issue of jumpers, in light of the anticipated cold weather, the Academy already permits the wearing of a plain black v-neck jumper which does not carry a logo.

Following a successful period of recruitment we welcome several new members of staff to the Academy in January. These colleagues bring with them a wealth of experience and expertise to contribute to our Academy improvement journey.

Finally, I think back to July when as a community we agreed our core values: Ambitious, Brave and Kind. I will hold true to these values. All I can ask is that we all maintain a commitment to making Amington the best it can be.

I wish you a lovely christmas and a happy new year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Andrew Deen
Principal