

Allerton Grange School

Road Safety Awareness

Be a considerate driver
Do not park on restricted areas on Talbot Avenue or Lidgett Lane
Be respectful of our local residents
Please use the turning circle paying attention to the speed limit
Obey speeding restrictions; they are there to protect our children
Look after the environment and switch off your engine, when stationary,
for cleaner air!



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Allerton Grange School
 @Allerton_Grange

Our Ref: MRp/BMa

17 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to all our families at the start of a new school year. This letter is an opportunity to bring you all up to speed on some areas of school development.

Attendance

We have had a very settled and purposeful start to the new school year with attendance, during the first week back, at 94.5%.

Uniform

Thank you for ensuring that students arrived on time on Tuesday (Year 7) and Wednesday (all other year groups), dressed in full school uniform, with full equipment and ready to learn.

We have been made aware that the uniform stockists are still awaiting delivery of branded jogging bottoms. Just to clarify that this item of PE uniform is not compulsory. It is an optional extra should students wish to wear them during colder spells. If students do not wish to wear this item, they should wear branded Allerton Grange PE shorts instead. Following my 'post covid survey in the summer, we had an overwhelming response from parents, asking if students could continue to wear PE kit to school on 'PE days'. As a result, senior leaders, in consultation with the PE department, agreed to the changes with the view that students will be wearing their PE kit for two full days a week, rather than just during lesson time which is only two hours a week. It is, therefore, very much about maintaining the high standards of Allerton Grange, where all our students are dressed the same; they are easily recognisable in, and out, of school; and, ultimately, it reinforces positive discipline, pride and self-confidence and a sense of belonging.

Extracurricular activities

We are delighted to be able to offer a full timetable of extracurricular activities once again. Through their assemblies, all students have been told about many opportunities on offer and we encourage them to participate in extracurricular activities for at least one term each academic year. You can find a copy of this half term's extracurricular timetable on the website.

Update on building works

Building work has continued over the summer and I am delighted to say that we now have

- 4 new science labs
- 2 new drama studios
- 1 new music technology suite
- Additional dining hall seating – with our new mezzanine floor
- New sixth form common room
- New staff workroom
- New isolation room



In addition, the following are on schedule to be completed by the end of half term.

- 6 additional sixth form classrooms
- Well-being garden

Allerton Grange as an outward looking school

Over the past two years, much of our school improvement work has focused around the curriculum, assessment and teaching, plus literacy and reading. This work, and the rapid improvements at Allerton Grange, has been noticed by Leeds City Council and other schools. The reputation of Allerton Grange is growing locally and regionally. As a result:

- Mr Norrington (Deputy Headteacher) has been approached to lead staff training for the Red Kite Teaching School Hub. He will be seconded for one day a week to the Hub.
- I have been appointed to the steering committee for the Red Kite Teaching School Hub.
- Mrs Saunders (Deputy Headteacher), Mr Norrington (Deputy Headteacher) and I have been selected to train other senior leaders in the region in the National Professional Qualifications (NPQ).
- Mr Fidler (Assistant Headteacher) has been approached to make a presentation to senior leaders from across the city on assessment.
- We have also been approached by an Outstanding school in Kirklees to work with them on developing their curriculum.

We are regularly reviewing the capacity of the senior leadership team to ensure that we do not lose our focus on the priority, which is to maintain an exceptional quality of education for the students at Allerton Grange.

Cycling

It is great to see more and more students choosing to cycle to school. We have a growing number of cycle racks where students can store the cycles securely. We want to promote safe cycling and, therefore, in the near future we will be putting in place a licence scheme. This will allow students, who agree to abide by the safety measures, to store their bikes at school. Further information will be sent to parents in the coming weeks.

Vaccinations for 12 to 15 year olds

To date, we have not received any notification from government about our responsibilities regarding vaccinations for this age group. As soon as we hear we will inform parents.

Photographs

Our annual school photographs will take place on Monday 20 September. We've not been able to do these for a while due to Covid restrictions, so we're going to do the whole school in one day. All students should be wearing full uniform on Monday (no PE kit).

Class Charts

This is our new portal for recording positives, negatives and taking registers. We will be launching it in the coming weeks and parents will have access to the live data.

Senior Leadership Surgery

This is an opportunity to 'drop in' without an appointment to meet a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will be ready to answer your questions, provide advice and guidance or discuss any issues or concerns you have. Surgeries take place every Thursday between 3.15 - 4.15pm, commencing on 23rd September and will be open to all parents/carers and members of the community.

Car Parking

This is a polite reminder that the school car park, situated on the Talbot Avenue entrance, is for staff and visitors only. Parents are not permitted to drive into this area to pick up and/or drop off students. Particularly with the extra traffic while the building works are still taking place. Please be aware that the drop-off bay is for taxis only; ignoring this is a major breach of health and safety and could, potentially, put your child in danger. This car park must be kept clear should the emergency services need to gain access at any time.

Please also be respectful of local residents and take note of the parking restrictions and the 20 mph speed limit on Talbot Avenue. The safety of our children is everyone's responsibility and only by working together can we ensure that they travel to and from school as safely as possible.

Reminder of important dates this term

Mon 20 September	Y7, 9 & 12 School Photos
Tues 21 September	Y7 Parent Welcome Evening
Thurs 23 September	Open Evening
Fri 24 September	Training Day – school closed to students
Tues 28 September	Y12 Welcome Event
Weds 6 October	Y11 Study Skills Day & Parent Power
Mon 11 to Weds 13 October	Y12 Residential
Tues 12 October	Parents Forum
Tues 19 October	Social Science Careers Event
Weds 20 to Fri 22 October	Y12 Geography Residential
Thurs 21 October	Y7 PE Parental Engagement Evening
Fri 22 October to Mon 1 Nov	Half Term
Weds 3 November	Y8 HPV Vaccinations
Thurs 4 November	Prospective Y12 Open Evening
Weds 10 November	Y13 Parents Evening
Thurs 18 November	KS4/5 Music Concert
Thurs 25 November	Y11 Parents Evening
Weds 1 December	Y10 Parents Evening
Weds 8 December	Christmas Showcase
Thurs 16 December	World of Music
Fri 17 December	End of Term

Please check our website and social media sites regularly for any changes and/or further information.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Roper
Headteacher