

Our Ref: LE

Wednesday 20th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of Term Arrangements

Please see below our arrangements for the end of the Autumn term. Our last day is Friday 22nd March. Students will be expected in school until the end of period 2

- Year 11 students will leave at 11:30am following their Mock Exam Results Assembly
- Years 7 and 8 will leave at 11:45am
- Year 9 and 10 will leave at 12:00pm

Standards and Expectations

As you are aware, we have the highest expectations of behaviour from our students at Oldbury Academy. We believe that at all times students should 'Behave Safely, Show Respect and Be Responsible'. Each of our students and their parents/carers should now be fully aware of the expectations here within the academy, however we would like to take the opportunity to remind you about some of our key expectations.

Our Oldbury Academy Expects guidance, which provides information on our routines and expectations, can be found at the link here: https://oldburyacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Oldbury-Academy-Expects-Handbook_Home.pdf

Return to School – Monday 8th April

We look forward to seeing all students return to the Academy on Monday 8 April at 8:40am for all year groups. To further recognise those students whose attendance to school is excellent, any student who achieves 100% attendance for the first week back will receive in class recognition. These students who attend every day during that first week will also be entered into a prize draw, where one student from each year group will win themselves a £10 Love to Shop voucher.

Mobile Phones and Headphones/Pods

I am sure you will have seen recently in the news about the Government providing guidance on the banning of mobile phones in schools. The guidance suggests four main approaches to a mobile phone policy

- No mobile phones on the school premises.
- Mobile phone handed in on arrival.
- Mobile phones kept in secure location, which the pupil does not access throughout the school day
- Never used, seen or heard – A policy where pupils keep possession of their mobile phones only on the strict condition that they are never used, seen or heard – with consequences for breaching this that are sufficient to act as an effective deterrent.

We are aware that parents often want their children to have their mobile phones, particularly on the journey to and from school. After discussion with the Governing Body our preferred policy for use of mobile phones and other electronic devices is “never used, seen or heard”. This policy will apply throughout the school day (from when students arrive on to school site until they have left school site), including breaks and lunchtimes.

We have taken our time to amend our behaviour policy and our new policy will be implemented as of Monday 8 April

If a student’s mobile phone or electronic device is “used, seen or heard” the device will be confiscated and kept securely in School Reception until the end of the day. The first time it is confiscated the student can collect the device at the end of the school day. Any further confiscations, a parent or carer are required to collect the phone.

It is therefore essential, if students bring their mobile phone or electronic device to school, they must:

- Never take it out of their pocket or bag, or be seen carrying the phone in their hand
- Never use it in school (for example to check the time; to check their timetable or to read messages)
- Have it switched to silent mode


We know that research tells us that where schools have restricted the use of mobile phones and electronic devices during the school day, there has been a significant rise in student outcomes, improved mental health and social interaction skills. We would very much welcome your support with this important and permanent change in school policy and would ask that if you need to contact your child you do so through reception.

Grab Bags

If your child is entitled to free school meals there is an option to collect a grab bag from the canteen before they leave on Friday. These will be available from the canteen at 11.45 for years 7 and 8 and at 12.00 for years 9-11. They will only be available to students who have pre-order a grab bag. To pre-order please email grabbag@oldburyacademy.org.uk and give your child's name and year group. This is only for children who receive free school meals. Please ensure your child knows to collect it. The deadline for this is 3pm tomorrow.

We wish all our students and families a restful and enjoyable break.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liam Evans', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Liam Evans
Deputy Headteacher