

27 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Easter Update

It is nice to see the nights drawing out and for the most part the rain subsiding as we move into the spring and summer term, it has certainly been a very wet and dark winter. In the next term the academy continues to have lots of calendared events for students and parents as well as the wide and varied extra-curricular activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my amazing staff for their endless hours of work, preparing and then taking students on trips and visits often in their own time and holidays. It has been great to see such a variety of enrichment opportunities with some exciting new international trips planned for the Easter and May half-term holidays.

As Principal of the academy, myself and colleagues across the education sector continue to see a significant increase in the challenges faced in the recruitment of staff in all areas. You may have seen the recent media coverage highlighting the current situation within the sector and it would be remiss of me not to highlight this to parents and carers. Please be assured that as an academy and a Trust we continue to work tirelessly and proactively regarding recruitment and retention, so our students get the very best experience within their time at the academy. Any parents or carers who want to train to teach please see the link below which will provide specific local providers for teacher training.

<https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/schools-libraries-and-learning/train-to-teach-in-north-lincolnshire/>

<https://ucnl.ac.uk/subject-areas/teacher-training/>

<https://www.lincolnshirescitt.co.uk/>

<https://www.dretteachingschoolhub.co.uk/Initial-Teacher-Education/>

Any parents and carers who are seeking new job opportunities and would like to work in the education sector please see our vacancies section.

At the start of March, I received confirmation of the numbers for our new Year 7 cohort for September 2024. Once again South Axholme Academy continues to be oversubscribed with nearly 200 applicants for our new intake. We look forward to seeing them on Monday 1 July for their 3-day induction.

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I have highlighted below some key events and information of note, and would ask you to look out for the link taking you to our Newsletter (which will be published next week), which summarises some of the fantastic work and experiences our young people have had the opportunity to be involved in.

Easter Revision Programme Year 11, Tuesday 2 April – Friday 12 April 2024

Year 11 students are required to attend course specific revision and preparation sessions during the holidays to support them for their examination.

Summer Examination Series

The summer examination series starts on **Friday 10 May 2024**.

Please note that all Year 11 students must be available to sit an examination on **Wednesday 26 June 2024**, as this is the contingency day set by the examination boards.

Students will be attending school as normal during the summer examination period. Students will be attending their normal scheduled lessons or a pre-examination class when not in an examination.

Full attendance throughout the examination period is vital if students are to perform at their best.

SAX Mindset Day 3

Our next SAX Mindset Day will take place on **Thursday 2 May 2024**, this day promises to have a range of activities and experiences designed to engage and inspire our students.

Please note that students will be off timetable on this day. Further details about the programme for the day will be shared with each year group in the summer term.

Year 7 and 8 Parents' Evenings

The Year 7 Parents' Evening will take place on **Thursday 16 May 2024**, and Year 8 on **Thursday 13 June 2024**, between **4.30pm – 7.30pm**. These events will take place in school. Information will be shared prior to the event, and bookings will be made online via Arbor.

Year 11 - Prom 2024

The Prom venue has been selected by the Senior Student Leadership Team for 2024. Again, we will hold the event at the Garden Inn Hilton in Doncaster. The date of the Prom is **Friday 21 June 2024**, and students should arrive for 6.30pm. Arrangements should be made to collect students from the venue at 11.00pm.

Further details will be provided when we return after Easter to those students who are eligible to attend the prom.

New Facilities at South Axholme Academy – New Science Laboratory and Toilet Block

During the Easter period we will continue with the scheduled interior improvements to the heating across the academy and the majority will be completed in main block. This has been funded by our successful Condition Improvement Fund bid gained in 2022. Also, during the Easter period, a significant amount of maintenance work, compliance checks and refurbishment will take place. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Trust, Isle Education Trust, for their support in financing two new major projects on the site.

M20 – Our brand-new science lab should be open for the first week back. This will have been completely refurbished and will provide one of the largest laboratories in the academy.

South Block Toilets – work begins over the Easter holidays for a complete refurbishment in the toilets in South Block. They should be open within the first two weeks when we return in the summer term, with additional contingency toilets open to students whilst they are refurbished. Please note that the academy and Trust continues to invest in its student facilities, and I would ask that you speak with your child regarding respect of school property and sensible use.

Equipment

Please ensure your child has the basic equipment they require for a school day. This includes full uniform, school bag, pencil case including pens, pencil, ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener, green pen, whiteboard, whiteboard pen, highlighters, and calculator. The academy does run a non-profit stationery shop each day before school and at break. Students should ensure they are fully equipped for when they return. Students who continue to not have the correct equipment disrupt the start of the lessons and this impacts on them and others learning. Students who continue not to follow the academy rules on equipment will be supported in line with academy Achievement and Behaviour policy.

Uniform

Again, thank you for your continued efforts in making sure our students have had the correct uniform, especially during a time when all families are experiencing additional financial pressures due to the increase in the cost of living. Your collective efforts are very much appreciated. We have several pre-loved items of uniform available free for families. Please contact the academy for further details should you require any additional support.

Uniform is particularly important to us, as it helps to establish the right attitude to learning and behaviour, which we pride ourselves on here at South Axholme Academy.

A reminder of our uniform policy can be found by using this link: [Uniform Policy](#).

Please ensure your child fully complies with the academy uniform policy.

As you may be aware we are running a consultation on the amendment to the school uniform for September 2024. Please see the letter with specific details and FAQ.

Staffing Updates

I wanted to inform you of some recent staffing updates at the academy. Mrs Marsh, our Assistant Principal and SENDCo is leaving at Easter and will be replaced by Mr Atkinson. Mr Bellamy, Subject Leader of Food, leaves and will be replaced in September by Mrs Hyland-Smith. Mrs McKay is retiring on 17 April 2024, and we wish her well. Mrs Benson will become the new Progress and Achievement Leader for Year 9.

I am also pleased to announce the arrival of Mr Jones, who will be joining us as our new Technology Teacher specifically leading on our KS4 Construction course. We are excited to have our new staff on board as valuable additions to our team.

Returning to School

Students and staff return to school on **Monday 15 April 2024** for the summer term.

Bank Holidays

Please note the academy is closed on **Monday 6 May 2024** for the Spring Bank Holiday.

Payment Provider

A reminder that over the Easter holidays we change our payment provider and therefore, NO PAYMENTS should be made on your Iris Parentmail account, for trips from 22 March 2024 and for lunch account top ups, from 12.30pm on Thursday 28 March 2024.

In preparation for this change from Iris Parentmail to our new payment provider, Arbor we are finalising any trips - you may see that the item on Parentmail says '**cancelled**' as part of the trip that you have purchased. We have done this so that we can remove the item from the system to help with our accounts, so that we can then transfer your balance to Arbor. The remaining balance for a trip/payment which you have made contributions to, will turn up in Arbor over the Easter holiday period.

We will send out further communications when Arbor payments are up and running.

Finally, I wish all our students, parents and carers a Happy Easter!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Barlow', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr S Barlow
Principal