



Headteacher: Mr I. Bryant

Founder Academy of the Mercian Trust

28 March 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Thank you for your support throughout another challenging term. The second half of the term has been closer to normal than we have had since March 2020 and we have enjoyed being able to hold assemblies in school and to have more trips and visits taking place. We look forward to the first music concert in over two years which takes place on Wednesday evening this week.

A few items of importance to share with you as we reach the end of the Spring term.

Thursday 7 April

School closes for the Easter holiday on Thursday 7 April, **at the normal time of 3.00pm.** **There will be no early closing and students must attend in full school uniform.**

Monday 25 April

School starts again for the Summer Term on **Monday 25 April**, students should be in school to **start period 2 lessons at 9.40 am.**

Term Dates for 2022/23

Some advanced warning of the term dates for the academic year 2022/23. Teacher training days (school closed to students): Monday 5 September, Tuesday 6 September, Friday 27 January and 2 more days to be confirmed.

	Open	Close
Autumn Term 2022	5 September 2022 31 October 2022	21 October 2022 16 December 2022
Spring Term 2023	3 January 2023 27 February 2023	17 February 2023 31 March 2023
Summer Term 2023	17 April 2023 5 June 2023	26 May 2023 25 July 2023

Attendance

Like many other schools we are striving to reinforce the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality at school following the Covid pandemic. We would therefore be most grateful if all our parents/carers and students would discuss the importance of positive attendance and punctuality as a family.

For our students to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered it is vital that every student is at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. The routines students develop around attendance and punctuality at school are the same as the expectations of any future employer in the world of work. High attainment, confidence with peers and staff, and future aspirations depend on good attendance.

Parking

Parents are reminded that they should not drive onto the school site at the beginning or end of the school day. Gates at the Tynings Lane entrance will be closed while students are arriving/departing. Parents are also asked to be considerate to our neighbours, and to other road users when parking, please make sure you are not double parked or blocking access.

We have also had the following information from the Senior Pollution Control officer regarding unnecessary idling of vehicles by parents whilst waiting for students:

Control of noise- stopping of engine whilst stationary

It can be an offence to leave a vehicle engine running unnecessarily while the vehicle is parked. This is dealt with by regulation 98 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, as amended. These provisions are enforced by the police.

Improvement of air quality - exhaust emissions

The Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002. Now 1808) enable local authorities in England to issue fixed penalty notices to drivers who allow their vehicles to run unnecessarily while stationary on the road. Whilst at present Walsall Council has not adopted these provisions, they allow for an authorised officer to issue a fixed penalty notice of £20.00 if a driver refuses to turn off the engine when requested to do so.

Ramadan and Eid 2022

We are not far away from the start of Ramadan which this year is expected to start on Saturday 02 April and end on Sunday 01 May. We recognise and acknowledge that Ramadan and Eid are special and important times for our Muslim students and that fasting presents a challenge to students in conjunction with their studies. We do expect our students to be in school at the usual times throughout Ramadan and to participate in all lessons, including PE during which staff will be particularly aware of the need to look for signs of exhaustion and dehydration and to modify some activities to enable participation.

We understand that the likely date for Eid-ul-Fitr is Monday 02 May which is a public holiday when students are not required to attend school. If this is the case, then students will be expected to attend school on Tuesday 03 May. In the event that Eid falls on Tuesday 03 May, in line with guidance to schools on attendance, the school would allow one day's absence for religious observance on that day. We do not make assumptions about reasons for absence and require notification from parents for all absences including if a student is absent to observe Eid.

Uniform and equipment

We continue to ask for parents/guardians to support us as we work to ensure that all of our students wear correct uniform and have the basic stationery equipment. Staff will continue to monitor students and contact parents where students do not meet the standards expected. For full details of our uniform policy please see our website www.aldridgeschool.org

My thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ian Bryant
Headteacher

The Mercian Trust

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