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16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: End of Summer Term Update

What a year it has been? As I write this we have a few days left of what has been the most challenging academic year that I can remember. The ongoing battle of dealing with changing circumstances which have been beyond anyone's control has provided a constant theme throughout the year. In the academy we have grown accustomed to reacting and responding with very little notice! However, what has been incredibly impressive, is the way our students have responded to the changing situations that they have found themselves in at various points through the year. This has been achieved through the support that both you and the staff in the academy have provided them, but they have all found the qualities and attributes in themselves to tackle the challenges that they face. This has been particularly evident in how the students have responded in the second half of the academic year following the last lock down in March. Whilst they have all had their difficulties and struggles they have worked hard to overcome these and we have continued to see our students progress through this term which is all credit to them.

Summer Holidays

The academy will close to students at 3.10pm on Tuesday 20th July, for the summer holiday. The academy will re-open to students on Monday 6th September. Given the Government's announcements to schools and academies last week, it is likely that we will be asked to test the students on their return in a similar way to when they came back in March. The Government have advised that we can stagger the return of our students in September to aid with the logistics of doing this and this is something that we are likely to do. We are confident given our previous experiences that we can increase the speed of testing in the academy and so we will aim to have students back in the academy as soon as we can in September. As this is still six weeks away and we will receive further advice through the summer we will confirm exact arrangements during the summer break. The current guidance issued to schools for September suggests that many of the restrictions that have been in place this year will be disappear or at very least be eased, although there are likely to be some elements that we retain. We are planning to return to as close to a 'normal' start of the year as we can but will continue to update you as we approach the start of term.

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Determined to be...

'the best that we can be'

 @TeamNHA

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COVID Testing in the Summer Break

We have issued students with further testing kits so that they can continue to test regularly through the summer. From the 19th July, schools and academies will no longer be responsible for the identification of close contacts as we have been this year. This will pass over to the NHS Track and Trace system, where all positive results will need to be logged. Additionally the current guidance from the Government is that if students and staff need to attend schools and academies through the summer then they should continue to test themselves regularly. If you require more COVID testing kits through the summer then they can be ordered directly from the NHS at [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

Free School Meals

Norfolk County Council have been fortunate enough to receive a grant from DWP to provide students entitled to Free School Meals with vouchers through the summer break. These vouchers are for £15 per week. The vouchers will be available to all our students who are currently registered for Free School Meals and can be claimed through the Edenred Website in the same way that previous vouchers have been claimed. The vouchers will be issued every two weeks through the holiday. In addition to this Norfolk County Council have been promoting their Summer Holiday Activity Clubs across the county. These are free clubs and places are available to children between ages of 5 to 16 years old who would be entitled to Free School Meals. There are a range of different activities taking place and we are hosting one of the football/sport based activities for 4 weeks this summer. Further details about what is happening and how you sign up can be found at this link: [Big Norfolk Holiday Fun - Norfolk County Council](#)

Change of Calendar Dates

Since we published the academy calendar for the next academic year earlier this year I have been asked to make two changes to the calendar. The first is that our Staff INSET day in July 2022 will now take place on Friday 1st July rather than Monday 4th July as previously scheduled.

The second change is that due to the extra national bank holiday next year schools and academies have been given an additional day's holiday. In order to minimise disruption we intend to add this day to the end of the summer term, which will mean that next year the academic year will finish on Thursday 21st July rather than Friday 22nd July.

Contacting the Academy During the Summer Break

Whilst the academy will remain open during the summer break for various activities if you need to contact anyone in the academy please can you use the office@tnha.org.uk email address. We are having our phone systems upgraded at the start of the summer so there may be some disruption to voicemail. Equally with minimal staff around during the break it might be several days if not weeks before voicemail is picked up. The office@tnha.org.uk email address will be regularly monitored and so messages can be passed on to staff as appropriate. Please be aware that as well as students having a break many staff will be having a break through the summer so there may be a delay in responding to communications.

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Staff Leaving

Unfortunately the end of term sees the academy say farewell to some of our staff. This summer Miss Plaza, Mr Woodruff and Mrs Newton will all be leaving the academy. Miss Plaza and Mr Woodruff are moving on to new challenges at new schools and Mrs Newton, after 29 years of working with children, is looking forward to a well-earned retirement. We also have two of our mini bus drivers, Mr Newton and Mr Parker who are also retiring this summer. We thank all these colleagues for the valuable contribution that they have made to our academy and wish them all well for the future.

The only thing that remains for me to say is a huge thank you for all your support this year. I started this update by commenting on the challenges we have all had to face. Your support has been invaluable in helping us to continue to help your children and given the disruption and upheaval at various points throughout the year this has been more important than ever. As I have referenced at other times I have stopped trying to second guess what the future will hold. Our plans in the academy is to return to as much normality as we can in September. However, as the last 15 months or so has shown plans often need to adapt and be changed at very short notice! What I can be confident about is that the way our students and staff, with your support, have tackled the last year we will be able to cope with whatever the future may bring.

I wish you all a restful, enjoyable and safe summer and look forward to continuing to work with you when we return in September.

Kind regards and stay safe.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mr Woodhouse'.

Mr Woodhouse
Principal