

Parent/Carer

Dear Parent/Carer

February Newsletter

Storm Ciara

As you are aware, Storm Ciara damaged a section of the roof on the science tower. Following advice from the Fire Brigade, I had no option but to close the academy for the following 2 days. Our estate team worked exceptionally hard to ensure the academy was open to over half the students within 48 hours and open to all students the following day. Work is already on-going to replace the damage and return our science team to a refurbished and enhanced tower as soon as possible. No other subjects are affected. I would like to thank parents for their understanding and I apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Further site investment

Storm Ciara aside, investment in our site has continued; over £50,000 spent since Christmas on new windows in a number of areas including girls PE changing rooms. February half-term has been busy with the estates team installing new carpets and refurbishment to a numbers of rooms. We are planning additional, significant site investment over the next 12 months.

Internal review

On 3 & 4 February we had a planned internal inspection led by myself, an experienced OFSTED lead inspector and representatives of our academy trust. I am pleased to report many positive findings from the 2 day inspection. I hope this demonstrates to parents our commitment to continuously improving the learning experience of the students.

Term Dates

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| Friday 3 April 2020 | The academy closes for Easter at 2:50 |
| Tuesday 21 April 2020 | The academy re-opens for students at 8:30 |
| Friday 8 May 2020 | May Bank Holiday – Academy closed Please note: May Bank Holiday is a Friday. |
| Friday 22 May 2020 | The academy closes for half-term at 2:50 |
| Monday 1 June 2020 | The academy re-opens for students at 8:30 |
| Friday 17 July 2020 | The academy closes for the summer at 2:50 |

Please check our website for the [Extra-Curricular Timetable](#). Please click in the tab '*Information*' and follow the prompts.

Music tuition

Nearly 30 students are taking advantage of our offer of free music lessons. If your child would like to learn a musical instrument, please contact our leader of performing arts; Mrs Fordham on 01472 328888.

Rugby Football Union

Beacon Academy is now affiliated with the Rugby Football Union (RFU). The students have designed our new rugby strip alongside the official England rugby kit designer. Beacon staff/students will be present at the '6 Nations' rugby international between England and Wales on Saturday 7 March. We will receive our new strip on the hallowed Twickenham turf just prior to kick off!

Term-Time Holidays

Like other secondary schools, Beacon is obliged to fine parents £60 for taking holidays during term-time. Beacon does not receive the £60 and we fully understand the financial reasons for term-time holidays. However, as with all other academies we are expected to impose the fine and code the holiday as 'unauthorised'. Department for Education research identifies a clear link between poor school attendance (under 95%) with poor GCSE results. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact our Education Welfare Officer; Mrs Dobson on 01472 328888 extension: 1.

Staffing Update

In January we made 2 teaching appointments for September 2020:

- Mr A Smith is a teacher of maths, who will join us from Cleethorpes Academy
- Miss R Wiggett is a teacher of maths who will join us from Toll Bar Academy.

I am delighted to have secured 2 talented maths teachers to join us, these appointments ensure our maximum class sizes of 25 will be maintained and ensure that all Beacon students have specialist teachers. Additional teaching appointments will be made to further strengthen our staff team. I will provide an update in my next newsletter.

Last month we said farewell to Mr Jawaid who has secured a post working with young people nearer his home in the Doncaster area. I would like to thank Mr Jawaid for his contribution to our academy and wish him well for the future.

May I take this opportunity to thank all our parents/carers for their on-going support of Beacon Academy.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Thurley
Headteacher