



17th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of term, I thought it important to write to you to update you on things that will be happening at Iceni Academy in the New Year. Firstly, I would like to thank those of you who took the time to reply to the survey on the proposed changes to timings of lessons within the academy day. Your overwhelming support for the changes is very much appreciated. I firmly believe that this change will have a positive effect on the focus and behaviour of our students. The new timings will be shared with students this week, and they will be reminded about them at the start of term.

Unfortunately, we have had a number of last-minute resignations. Whilst we work to recruit into these posts, it is important that we keep students safe, and learning. We say goodbye to Mr. Soudain, our Food Technology teacher, Mr. Bate, our Head of Technology who has completed 20 years of teaching at Iceni and Miss Chen, our Mandarin teacher. Mr Soudain is off to live in France, and Mr. Bate is looking to reduce his commitments as he heads towards retirement. I would like to thank them for their contribution to the academy.

As you might imagine, Mandarin teachers are not easy to find, and so we have made the difficult decision to drop Mandarin from the curriculum. Students who were studying this language will now study French and German. I know that this is disappointing to those students who were enjoying learning this language, but hope that they have enjoyed studying the Chinese language, their culture and their ways of life. The countywide shortage of Technology teachers means that we are not in a position of being able to deliver safely the practical elements of some Technology classes. I hope to be able to rotate Miss Francis, our remaining Technology teacher, so that all students have a taste of the practical element of the subject. We will use the remaining lessons to boost student levels in English and Maths, which are an ongoing concern on a national scale following the pandemic. If your child is in Year 10 or 11, then separate arrangements have been made to ensure that they are not disadvantaged in their GCSE studies. Please feel free to contact the academy on helpme@iceni.attrust.org.uk if you have any concerns about these changes.

We look forward to welcoming your child back to the academy on Wednesday, 5th January. As per the Government guidance, we will be testing students for whom we have permission once during the first week back. If you wish to give consent and have not yet done so, or if you wish to withdraw consent, please email helpme@iceni.attrust.org.uk. Lateral flow tests continue to be available for collection for all students from First Aid. Can I please ask that you test your child the evening of the 4th or the morning of the 5th, before their return?

We intend to open fully in January, but are aware of the changing landscape due to the new Omicron variant. If the guidance from the Government changes over the Christmas Holiday we will inform you by email, as well as announcing plans through Social Media. If we do not reopen, we will be converting to live lessons via Teams, as was the case earlier in the year.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Hogg'.

Lesley Hogg.

Principal.