



THE DEAN TRUST
Ashton on Mersey School

Chief Executive: Mr Tarun Kapur CBE
Executive Headteacher: Mr Andrew Shakos
Headteacher: Mr Lee McConaghie

15th July 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

As we approach the end of this academic year, I would like to thank each of you for playing a crucial role in the life of the young people at Ashton on Mersey School. It is through our shared and high expectations alongside an essential home-school partnership that every child can reach their potential. I am proud, as Headteacher, that the school can rely on such a strong community as we constantly strive to deliver our mission statement of:

“Together, we will be the best we can be.”

Whilst we cannot say that our lives have returned to normal this year; normal is in view. I believe that September will bring a freshness and vibrancy that can only benefit our school and will support the staff to deliver even more opportunities for our young people.

Key Dates / Times

- The summer term ends for all year groups on Tuesday 19th July at 12:00pm
- School reopens for year groups 8-11 on Tuesday 6th September. All pupils are expected to be in form rooms by 10.55am. Year 7 pupils are expected to be in form rooms by 8.35am.
- Examination results for Year 11 (class of 2022) can be collected on Thursday 25th August between the times of 9.00am and 11.00am.

Sixth Form

- Year 12 students will return to school on Tuesday 6th September at 8.45am. Year 13 students will return to school on Wednesday 7th September at 8.30am
- Examination results day for Sixth Form students is Thursday 18th August from 08:30am-11.00am
- Sixth Form enrolment is on Thursday 25th August between the times of 10.00am and 2.00pm or on Friday 26th August between the times of 10.00am and 12.00pm

Term dates for 2022-23 and 2023-24 can be found on the Ashton on Mersey website.

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Home School Communication

In order to facilitate improved communication between parents/carers and the school, we will shortly be moving to a new online platform called “*My Child At School*” (MCAS). This application encompasses many school services and will allow parents and carers to send and receive messages to/from the school, monitor each child’s attendance and behaviour, monitor and support homework, sign up for extra-curricular clubs, sign up for trips and add money to lunch accounts and update contact details.

As part of this new service, we will shortly cease using the following two services:

- “*SchoolComms*” messaging solution. We will begin a transition to MCAS for communicating with parents and carers.
- “*Satchel One*” for homework. Similarly, teachers will use MCAS to set homework assignments.

This will require a download of the MCAS app (available from the Apple/Google Play Stores) and sign up using the access codes sent to the email address we have on record. We will send every parent and carer an access code by email.

If you have not received your invite code to MCAS by the start of the new academic year, please contact the school and we will assist you.

For the autumn term, parents and carers will still need to sign up for ParentPay to top up a child’s lunch account and to pay for trips and visits. Parents and carers will be informed when this specific service will be migrated to MCAS.

Uniform

As I explained in a previous letter, any pupil that wears a skirt will be expected to wear a pair of plain black tights from September. This expectation will be relaxed in the summer months when temperatures rise (May half term can be given as an estimate) alongside flexibility on blazers being worn on corridors (which we communicate to pupils when appropriate).

I have personally spoken to each year group this week to be very clear on the reasons behind this change: consistency, uniformity and smartness of appearance. The school has a significant bank of tights in stock should affordability be an issue or if tights become damaged during the school day. Our full uniform policy can be found on the Ashton on Mersey website.

On Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th July, the current heatwave is forecast to intensify. As such, **should pupils wish to leave blazers at home they may do so**. It is important that pupils remain as comfortable as possible in such unusually hot weather.

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Newsletter

A final newsletter will be sent to the community on Tuesday. In the meantime, might I ask that you spend a few moments completing the following survey?

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmALTzpw2xDHL3XyMFaNV7QJtBDx-m-4s0WPzVFq1GAbluw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Whilst the staff and pupils are very proud of the newsletter, I would like your feedback so we can refine it and continue to make it a publication that the whole community can enjoy.

I do hope you can all have a restful summer holiday and I look forward to working with you in partnership once more in 2022/23.

Yours sincerely

Mr L McConaghie
Headteacher

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