

2 October 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

As we reach the end of our fifth week we would like to provide an update regarding a number of developments

Home School Transport

We would like to thank all parents/carers who have worked in partnership with the academy and the local authority in supporting our students in wearing face coverings when travelling on school transport. We have attached the government guidance link which may support you in explaining the importance of following the guidance on safe travel, please see separate attachment and summary below:

- Social distancing should be maximised within vehicles
- Children either sit with their 'bubble' on school transport, or with the same constant group of children each day
- Children should regularly clean/sanitise their hands
- Additional cleaning of vehicles is in place
- Organised boarding is in place
- Through ventilation of fresh air (from outside the vehicle) is maximised,

We have worked closely with Globe Travel and South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTe) to review the home school transport situation and can inform that SYPTe have for the last fortnight, increased the service provision for the 495 service bus to include a dedicated Darton school bus service bus (95). This has significantly increased available transport capacity.

We are delighted to inform parents/carers that the enrichment bus currently used by our year 11 students engaging in additional study as part of the Darton Academy Covid Recovery Curriculum has been running for the previous three weeks. This dedicated home school transport provision has reduced the number of students using both service buses (SYPTe) and dedicated home school transport (Globe Travel) and we plan to continue this service throughout the academic year.

Y7 Settling In

The Year group have settled in exceptionally well have made the transition to secondary school smoothly. To support this further we will be sharing information with Parents/Carers next week regarding next steps and how we will embed the transition process further.

Y7 Accelerated Reading

We are delighted to be introducing Accelerated Reader here at Darton Academy. The Accelerated Reader programme uses computer software to track students' reading levels based on independent reading practice. A student selects a book at the appropriate reading level and takes a short ten question multiple choice quiz after completing it. This process allows teachers to measure reading comprehension and determine if the student's assigned reading level is appropriate. Research into reading has consistently proven that successful readers are those who read frequently, we will therefore be supporting our Year 7 students to do an hour of reading per week, whereby students will be given access to our Learning Resource Centre to choose reading books, although they are also encouraged to bring in books from home. Next week all students in Year 7 will take a short quiz (Star Reading test) to determine their baseline reading level.

Y10 Parents' Evening

We have initial plans in place for our first Virtual Parents Evening of the year which is due to take place on Thursday 12 November and again further details will be sent out once these are confirmed and in place.

Thank you for your continued support of Darton Academy. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@dartonacademy.org.uk

Yours faithfully

G Smith

Gary Smith
Vice Principal