



Archbishop Blanch
SCHOOL

Archbishop Blanch School

Voluntary Aided Church of England High School

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Headteacher: Miss H Duggan BA(Hons), PGCE, NPQH

20 January 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

As we move through another busy term, I am writing to you with some important information and some key dates for your diary.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Attendance continues to be a key Government and local authority priority. Attendance is very good at Archbishop Blanch School, yet could always be better, which is why we take it very seriously. It is very important that every student attends school regularly, a poor attendance can seriously affect your child's education. 97% and above is ideal, 94-96.9% is a cause for concern, 90-93.9% means your child is at risk of under achievement and 80-89.9% indicates that there is a severe risk of underachievement and anything less than this could be of extreme concern. At the end of each term, 100% attendance will be recognised through our celebration assemblies during our Creative Learning Days.

Punctuality is equally as important and although punctuality has drastically improved, I must still remind you that students must be in school for 8.30 am to avoid a late mark being given.

UNIFORM

Our students continue to look very smart on a daily basis and wear their uniform with pride. However, as the winter weather seems to be upon us, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our uniform regulations. Coats must be navy or black in colour and plain. Coats must not have any decoration (such as fur or a logo). Socks must also be plain navy, again without decorations (bows etc). The Governors have agreed that skirts must be knee length with a navy blue inverted pleat only (standard from uniform suppliers). School scarves only are to be worn to and from school. A full updated uniform list can be found on our school website.

Students must also not wear make-up, nail polish or artificial nails. Shoulder length hair must be tied back in either a black or navy bobble and must be of a natural colour. Jewellery or any type of piercing, other than a watch, must not be worn.

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ACCOUNT BALANCES

A number of students have not been 'topping up' money on their school account, which has meant that they have run up a negative balance. This is putting the students into a difficult position when trying to get their lunch, as they do not have money to cover this. Students who have not cleared their negative balances have been asked to bring a packed lunch until this situation has been rectified. Your son/daughter is able to check balances in school at the top-up machine.

PARENT PAY

We will be introducing a very secure online payment system called ParentPay to school, which will hopefully be up and running by half-term. This should make it easier for parents to make payments to school for school meals, trips, music fees etc. The system is currently being installed. A letter will be sent to you next month giving log in details and information on how to use the ParentPay system. We would encourage you to log into the system and start using it as soon as you are able. Parents who do not have access to the internet may continue to send in cash or cheques in a sealed envelope with details of the pupil's name, amount and reason for the deposit.

SHOW MY HOMEWORK

We are excited to have launched 'Show My Homework', an online tool to help you keep track of your child's homework. 'Show My Homework' allows you to see the details of the tasks your child has been set, as well as their submission status. More importantly, we hope that it will improve your child's organisation, time-management and help them to keep on top of their workload.

This was introduced to your child last week and has started to be used for all homework. In the coming weeks you will be provided with login details to your personal account, ready-linked to your child's homework calendar. For the moment, you can access our school's homework page by going to www.abblanch.com and clicking the 'Show My Homework' logo and then filtering for your child's year and class. There is also a free app for iPhone, iPad and android devices.



This is not replacing homework diaries, which are still a vital tool of communication between parent and school and need to continue to be signed on a weekly basis.

GCSEPOD

GCSEPod is now available at **Archbishop Blanch**! We have subscribed to the award-winning service to give your child access to thousands of hours of professionally produced, audio-visual content which will benefit them throughout the coming year.

GCSEPod has over 4,000 teacher-written, audio-visual pods which have been produced specifically for learning, homework and revision. The Pods contain all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams that your child needs for GCSE success. They won't need to use GCSEPod for long to see the impact; in fact, consistent use of just 10 minute chunks is proven to support achievement whatever your child's target grade is.

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The GCSEPod website can be viewed on mobiles, tablets and PCs and the Pods can be downloaded for offline viewing. The Pods are mapped to the curriculum and students can access pre-set exam playlists which collate all the Pods relevant to a specific exam into a neatly organised list. All year GCSE students have been given a password and activated their accounts. More information of using GCSEpod and supporting your daughter in its use can be found on our school website under the "Parents" section.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday, 26 January	6-8pm	Sixth Form Open Evening
Wednesday, 3 February	4.30-6.30pm	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Monday, 8 February	7.00 pm	Music/Dance Cabaret Performance
Wednesday, 10 February		School Progress Reports Issued
Wednesday, 10 February	6-7.30 pm	Key Stage 4 Options Evening for Year 9
Thursday, 11 February		Art GCSE practical Exam
Thursday, 11 February		History trip departs to Berlin/Krakow (return 16/2)
Thursday, 11 February		National Business & Accountancy Competition
Friday, 12 February		Creative Learning Day
Friday, 12 February		Art GCSE Practical Exam
Friday, 12 February		Finish for Half Term
Saturday, 13 February		Disney trip to Paris for Dance Students (return 16/2)
Monday 15–Friday 19 February		Half Term
Wednesday, 17 February		Design/MFL trip to Barcelona (return 20/2)
Monday, 22 February		Students return to school

Yours sincerely



Miss H Duggan
Headteacher

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO YOUR CHILD'S FORM TUTOR

I confirm safe receipt of the Headteacher's letter to Parents dated 20 January 2016.

Name of child: _____ Form: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Parent/Guardian)