

Childwall Sports and Science Academy

Fiveways, Queens Drive, Liverpool. Merseyside L15 6XZ

Telephone: 0151 722 1561 Email: contactus@childwallssa.org

Headteacher:

Janette Vincent BA Hons, NPQH CEO/Executive Headteacher: Ann Stahler BA Hons, NPOH

www.childwallssa.org



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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this correspondence finds you well and ready for the festive season ahead. I write to update you on events of the last few weeks and to inform you of our plans and expectations for the start of next term.

Teaching and Learning:

This has been a good term for learning. Teachers have been training and planning for even further improvements to the school curriculum, ensuring that learning is always of the highest quality. Myself and my senior team have worked with Trust colleagues and external improvement partners to quality assure and evaluate the experiences our students are engaging with across different departments and within the sixth form. It is with great pride that I inform you that we have seen some excellent learning during these processes, and we have received some positive and valuable feedback from our students that will inform next steps. Reading remains a key part of our school day and daily lessons and bespoke programmes of intervention are having a significant impact on students' confidence, reading ability, (reading ages have increased by up to 36 months in some year groups,) and their understanding and utilisation of higher-level vocabulary.

Next steps:

- 1. We will be improving our systems for communication so that parents may track your child's attitudes to learning and home learning via a school app that will be launched in the new year.
- 2. We strongly encourage you to read with your children at home and find opportunities for them to read freely whenever they can.
- 3. We would value you finding opportunities to talk to your children about their day. The more they talk, the more confident they will become with their literacy skills. This is an invaluable life skill that is proven to support a positive state of mind.

Ambition Academy:

Not only have we developed an ambitious academic curriculum at Childwall, but we have also given a great deal of thought and time to providing new and different opportunities for the students outside of their traditional classroom environment. Our **recent newsletter** gives you a snapshot of these events. We appreciate you taking the time to look and read through at your leisure. Some students in Year 9 and year 12 are also engaging in external projects that link them to work with universities. We will share more in the next newsletter. Please offer our congratulations if your child has been involved in some way, and if not, encourage them further so that they have something extra to share next term. New experiences build character and resilience. I'm sure you join us in wanting all Childwall students to stand out positively from their peers.

Celebration:

This week is an important week to celebrate the successes of students across the school. Pastoral leaders will be joined by form tutors and senior leaders as we aim to reward students for their hard work, superb effort, positive attendance and punctuality, and their engagement in enrichment activities out of hours. Certificates and small prizes will be given out a sign of our appreciation and recognition of a good terms work.

Goodbyes:

As always, we must say goodbye to some of our colleagues as they move on from Childwall. We are delighted to inform you that Mr Ward has secured a promotion to Vice Principal at Hope Academy in St. Helen's. Mr Ward has done a tremendous job in leading our Inclusions team and Personal Development across the school. Also, Mrs Tuthill (known as Aunty Mary to staff and students alike), one of our longest serving and most loyal members of staff from our catering team, is retiring at the ripe old young age of 75. I'm sure you will join us in wishing them every success and good health in the future.

*Please note that Mr Rietdyk will take over as Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour, Attitudes and Attendance in January 2022. Mr Langley will lead Key Stage 4 and Mr Backhouse will lead Key Stage 3.

COVID-19:

Masks: As you know, government guidelines have recently changed due to the expected increase in infections over the next few weeks. Students and staff must now ensure that they are wearing masks in all communal areas, (unless exempt). In addition, we strongly recommend that they continue to wear them in classrooms when they can. Please ensure that your child comes to school with a mask each day as part of their everyday equipment.

Testing: In line with government guidance, we request that you ensure your children are testing for infection at least twice a week, not just if they feel unwell. This process helps us all to break infection by identifying positive cases and isolating so as not to spread the disease any further. On return from our holidays students will be tested in school. Please make sure that you have completed the latest **consent form.** We ask for your support and patience in this matter, as we stagger students return to school as listed in the table below.

Thursday 6 th January 2022	Arrival Time
Year 11 and Year 13	8.00am
Year 10 and Year 12	9.00am
Year 9	10.00am
Year 8	11.00am
Year 7	12.00pm

Winter HAF Programme: Please find details of Liverpool City Council's HAF programme here

Once again, I thank you for working with us each day to ensure your children are safe, happy, and healthy each day. Enjoy the festive season and the time you have with those important to you.

Yours faithfully.

Ms J E Vincent Headteacher