



Abbey Grange CofE Academy

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Principal: Mrs Dawn Morgan

4 September

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of our first week back, I would like to thank everyone for the positive start they have made to the year. It was wonderful to welcome our new Year 7's on Wednesday. They have had an action-packed week and hopefully now feel fully inducted into the Abbey Family.

Please find below a summary of information and expectations given to students this week.

Sixth Form students have started well. Please find copies of expectations assemblies for both year groups:

[Expectations assembly Year 13 .pptx](#)

[Expectations assembly Year 12.pptx](#)

For our new Year 12 parents we have are also running and an induction on the 10th September, so please look out for communication in Aplica regarding this or sign up here:

[Post 16 evening registration](#)

Standards of uniform have been generally excellent across the school, however please do remember that we expect students to be wearing leather shoes not trainers.

Mobile Phones

The new DFE policy is in place regarding mobile phones being prohibited in any area of site.

Students with phones out after crossing the "red line" of entry onto site can expect to have their phone confiscated for collection at the end of the day.

Sixth Form students are the exception to this, we recognise that phones are often well used by students as an aide to organisation and learning. But we would ask in order to support younger students and adhere to the new DFE policy that their phones are only used in specified Sixth Form only spaces in the Academy. Should Sixth Formers have their phones out in prohibited areas they can also expect them to be confiscated.





Arbor App

Hopefully, you will have all now downloaded (or have plans this weekend to download!) the **Arbor app**. (over 80 % of parents have already done this.)

Students will be shown how to acquire the student version of this in their ICT lessons next week and this activity should then be undertaken at home. Whilst students can track their progress, positives and negatives and look at their timetables on the app, not having access to a phone in school means that we have placed greater emphasis on our student planner this year.

School Planner

All students have been provided with a **planner** and we would ask that parents and carers please:

- Check the planner regularly. It is where key messages from school will be recorded as well as homework tasks.
- Discuss homework tasks and upcoming deadlines with their child.
- Encourage good organisation and independent study habits.
- Ask questions if they are unsure about a homework task.
- Sign the planner once each week to confirm that it has been reviewed.
- Make sure your child always has their planner with them in school. Students who do not have planners will receive a negative.
- Your involvement plays a significant role in helping your child stay organised and achieve their full potential.

Homework

To support KS3 students as they settle into the new school year, no **homework** will be set during the first two weeks of term and SPARX tasks will not be available. Homework will begin from W/C 21 September and will include a mixture of key terminology learning, SPARX tasks in English, Mathematics and Science, and subject-specific activities.

Students will usually be given around one week to complete homework, although the day it is set may vary from week to week.

KS4 students will begin receiving homework from W/C 7 September.

Homework will be recorded in student planners and explained during lessons. Students are responsible for recording homework accurately, keeping track of deadlines and completing tasks on time. Homework should be written in planners on the day it is due to be submitted, enabling students to identify busy periods in advance and manage their time effectively. Moving forward, homework will also be available through the Arbor App, allowing parents and carers to view tasks and deadlines electronically. Further information will be shared before this is introduced.



Student Groupings

Finally, a short note regarding **student groupings**. All KS3 classes are mixed ability, excepting Mathematics. Maths group on ability and there are 3 bands – so we have a set one in each band.

Key Stage 4 English and Maths set based on ability and internal tracking. Science and other subjects are mixed ability (excepting triple science).

I appreciate that there is lot of information in this early bulletin. The start of term is inevitably busy and staff, students and parents have a great deal to remember.

To this end, improving communication with home is one of our aims for the year. Being a large organisation and particularly one that is so very rich in its curriculum, extra- curricular and enrichment this will be a significant task and we know we haven't always got it right! We would welcome any suggestions but as a first step will be trying to consolidate key information (such as the above) into one fortnightly document (rather than many). I hope that the above reminders support parent-child conversations and help you to navigate your first weeks.

Please do seek out our **Facebook and Instagram pages** – we have so much to celebrate and as such these are regularly updated. We also send useful reminders via our socials regarding events and key dates.

[Abbey Grange CE Academy | Leeds | Facebook](#)

[Abbey Grange C of E Academy \(@abgacademy\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Morgan', is positioned above the printed name of the Principal.

Mrs D Morgan

Principal
Abbey Grange Church of England Academy