

TDA NEWS

SUMMER ISSUE 2018



A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

Another academic year draws to a close and can I thank you for all your support during this year; it has been a year of real successes. The results students achieved last summer made us the most improved academy in Stoke-on-Trent. Students are taking a greater part in Academy life with more student leaders and more students engaged in extracurricular activities. Community events such as the Christmas and Summer Fairs, along with our termly shows, are growing in success and community participation. Visits to places like Oxford University, local business and career events have inspired a number of students in what they want to move onto. Finally, it is always pleasing when external visitors come into the Academy and agree that this is a 'good' Academy and our mission statement of Expect Excellence will only continue to drive us onto even better things.

It has also been a year where we are planning changes to things like the structure of the Academy day, how we communicate and the introduction of new extra curricular opportunities for students to get themselves involved in academy life. This latter point links to the fact that although academic excellence is important, it is also important for students to have the opportunity to develop their characters and become kind, resilient and happy individuals. Much of the newsletter links to information regarding next year, much already distributed, but important key pieces of information.

I would like to wish parents, students and the community a wonderful summer, hopefully this sunshine will continue into the holiday. I look forward to working with everyone next year and as always if you want to get involved or have any feedback please come along to the Parent Forum events or email me directly on principal@thediscoveryacademy.co.uk

Simon French

First Day Back

The Academy re-opens for the new academic year to students on Wednesday 5th September 2018. Students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 need to be at the Academy for 10.30am. This will allow the new Year 7 intake to settle in on their first day as they will arrive at 8.30am. For the rest of the academic year all students should arrive at 8.30am.

Structure of the Academy Day

The structure of the Academy day is changing from September 2018. The start of the Academy day remains unchanged at 8.30am and all students continue to receive 5 x 1 hour lessons and morning Form each day. For all Year 7-10 students the end of the Academy day will be at 2.35pm with enrichment activities available from 2.35pm - 3.30pm. For all Year 11 students there will be a compulsory intervention session (Period 6) which will run from 2.35pm - 3.30pm Monday to Thursday. On Friday students will finish at 2.35pm.

To support this a new student entrance and exit will be in operation from Monday, 10th September and students will be allowed into the Academy from 8.15am. Students who attend sessions before this time or who join the breakfast club can sign up for a pass in the first week back with their Head of Year.

New Student Planner

A redesigned student planner will be in use from September, with a real emphasis on student rewards for 'outstanding' effort and learning in lessons. This means prizes, as we aim to celebrate our 'Expect Excellence' culture.

Uniform Standards

Along with other exciting changes, we continue to expect very high standards of our students. Therefore, when students return in September we expect excellent standards of uniform. This includes no skinny trousers, trainers, extreme hairstyles or colorings, no false or brightly colored nails or facial piercings. Students are allowed one piercing in each ear which should be a stud not a hooped earring. The ban on mobile phones has been a huge success and we will continue to enforce this rule. I would like to thank you for your support in ensuring impeccable high standards at The Discovery Academy and we look forward to a successful 2018-2019 academic year. You will need to wear the Academy uniform as pictured below.



Extra Curricular Activities

Students in Year 7-10 will have the opportunity to participate in extra curricular activities which will commence from Monday 17th September. An information pack with activities available will be issued at the beginning of September. It is an expectation that every student will do at least one activity. Year 7 and 8 will use their extra curricular time to take part in 'Discovery Challenge' to build up confidence, friendships and develop new skills

Revision Hub

Following feedback from parents/carers a staffed study revision hub for Year 7-10 will be available Monday to Thursday 2.35pm - 3.30pm. If you would like your child to attend please complete and return the attached slip. The revision hub will remain open for Year 11 students from 3.30pm - 5.30pm.

Summer Homework

All students will be issued with summer homework in a variety of lessons. To maintain the Expect Excellent focus it is imperative that each student completes this. Students will be tested on the homework when they return in September.

Attendance

Did you know..?

Every day of school missed by a student reduces their attendance by 0.5%. Ten whole days of school has been missed if your child has 95% attendance. Twenty whole days of school has been missed if a student's attendance is 90%. By the time a student is persistently absent (90% attendance) they have missed six weeks or half a term of schooling.

Illness

We know that illness is unavoidable and to be expected. However, it is very important to inform the Academy on the first day of absence with the reason, either by phone or text. 01782 882100.

Paperless Communication

The Discovery Academy is constantly looking at ways to make our communication to parents/carers more efficient. Therefore, we have decided that from September 2018 we will move to a paperless system to ensure that parents are kept up-to-date and that no important letters are lost 'in transit'. You may have noticed recently that you are beginning to receive texts and emails with a link to a copy of letters/documents that have been issued to students. Paper copies of letters will be available from reception should these be required. We will continue to obtain parent/carer emails and updates on mobile phone numbers. Although we aim to be paperless, the Academy will still require a signed paper copy for permission trips and off site visits.

Please complete and return to Reception as soon as possible.

I would like my child to access the revision hub for Year 7-10 which is available Monday to Thursday 2.35pm - 3.30pm.

Student NameForm

Signed (to be signed by person with legal parental responsibility)

Print name of person with legal parental responsibility Date.....

Summer Fair

The Academy held two fabulous events recently which were open to the wider community. The first was the Summer Fair, which was held on the same day that England played their World Cup match against Sweden. That fact did not prevent the day from being well attended and a great day was had by all, only improved upon by returning home to watch the England Team be victorious against the Swedes!

Production of Annie

Our very talented and hard working students honed their talents for the Performing Arts Faculty's musical production of 'Annie'. The show was performed on various days to the community and students. Everyone who took part, both on stage and behind the scenes, should be very proud as this was a fantastic show which was enjoyed by all audiences.



Structure of the Academy Day

Years 7 and 8		Years 9, 10 and 11	
8:30 – 8:50	Registration	8:30 – 8:50	Registration
8:50 – 9:50	Period One	8:50 – 9:50	Period One
9:50 – 10:05	Break	9:50 – 10:50	Period Two
10:05 – 11:05	Period Two	10:50 – 11:05	Break
11:05 – 12:05	Period Three	11:05 – 12:05	Period Three
12:05 – 12:35	Lunch	12:05 – 13:05	Period Four
12:35 – 13:35	Period Four	13:05 – 13:35	Lunch
13:35 – 14:35	Period Five	13:35 – 14:35	Period Five
14:35 – 15:30	Enrichment Activities	14:35 – 15:30	Period Six (Year 11) Enrichment Activities (Year 9 & 10)