

16 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope this final letter of term finds you and your family well.

As we know you are aware, it was always our intention to recruit an outstanding permanent Principal for John Smeaton Academy as the current arrangement of Leanne Griffiths overseeing the academy whilst also being Executive Principal: 11-16 Education was not designed for the long term.

We are, therefore, delighted to share with you that, following a rigorous recruitment process, Mrs Pascoe Gill has been recruited to the role of Principal of John Smeaton Academy. Mrs Gill is a very experienced leader having worked as Senior Vice Principal at another academy within The GORSE Academies Trust and more recently as Principal of the Leeds Teaching School Hub which is also a part of the trust. Mrs Gill's current office is part of the trust's office suite based at John Smeaton Academy and she has witnessed the remarkable journey of the academy this term first-hand. Indeed, in part, it is her experience of being a part of the academy's remembrance event which inspired her application and wish to become the full time Principal. Her passion and tenacity for improvement is tangible and the strength of her leadership is without question. The Student Ambassadors who were a part of the recruitment process were unanimous in their wish for her to be appointed and we are delighted that she will bring stability to the next stage of our transformational journey.

As Executive Principal and Chair of Governors we will be working in close partnership with Mrs Gill as we continue to make improvements at pace for the benefit of our students, staff and wider community and we hope that you will be reassured by the strength of this appointment.

Before we conclude we would like to remind you of the importance of the Covid-19 testing process that will be conducted on Tuesday 4 January and Wednesday 5 January 2022. If you haven't already provided consent we would urge you to do so via the following link: <https://consent.tgat.org.uk>. A reminder that students should return in line with their testing slot which is available to view on the website and a reminder has been included overleaf. All students who have not provided consent are expected to be present in the academy in time for morning registration at 8.40am on Tuesday 4 January 2022.

Finally, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Mrs L Griffiths
Principal



Cllr R Stephenson
Chair of Governors

Students whose parents / carers **do** wish for their child to take part in the testing programme will return to school in line with the information provided below:

Year Group	Form Group	Return to School Date	Return to School Time
11	11.1	Tuesday 4 January	8:00am
11	11.2	Tuesday 4 January	8:30am
11	11.3	Tuesday 4 January	9:00am
11	11.4	Tuesday 4 January	9:30am
11	11.5	Tuesday 4 January	10:00am
11	11.6	Tuesday 4 January	10:30am
7	7.1	Tuesday 4 January	11:15am
7	7.2	Tuesday 4 January	11:45am
7	7.3	Tuesday 4 January	1:00pm
7	7.4	Tuesday 4 January	1:30pm
10	10.1	Tuesday 4 January	2:00pm
10	10.2	Tuesday 4 January	2:30pm
10	10.3	Tuesday 4 January	3:00pm
10	10.4	Wednesday 5 January	8:00am
10	10.5	Wednesday 5 January	8:30am
10	10.6	Wednesday 5 January	9:00am
9	9.1	Wednesday 5 January	9:30am
9	9.2	Wednesday 5 January	10:00am
9	9.3	Wednesday 5 January	10:30am
9	9.4	Wednesday 5 January	11:15am
9	9.5	Wednesday 5 January	11:45am
8	8.1	Wednesday 5 January	1:00pm
8	8.2	Wednesday 5 January	1:30pm
8	8.3	Wednesday 5 January	2:00pm
8	8.4	Wednesday 5 January	2:30pm

Upon arrival to school, students should proceed through the main student entrance, around the back of the building, enter through the Barnardo Wing and up to the Science Corridor where they will complete their on-site COVID-19 test. Once the test result is confirmed as being negative, students will join their normal class and follow their normal timetable for the rest of the school day. Should the result be positive, we will contact parents / carers and ask you to collect your child as soon as possible. In this scenario, a PCR test will need to be completed at a testing centre.

To take part in our on-site testing programme, we once again require consent. Please follow the link below to provide consent for your child <https://consent.tgat.org.uk>. **Where consent is not provided, we will expect that your child will attend school as normal on Tuesday 4 January.** All absences will be followed up in line with our normal attendance procedures.

Remote Learning

Where students who are awaiting their on-site test are not required to physically attend the school site for a period across the first two days of school, we will be providing remote learning. Students should access lessons via Microsoft Teams. Students will join their peers who are already in school remotely and engage in lessons in the same way as they did during previous lockdowns. In the lead up to the Christmas break, form tutors will provide students with training in relation to how to access lessons remotely.

Where your child does not have access to a suitable device at home to engage in remote learning, we are able to support with this through the loaning of a device over the Christmas period. Please email enquiries@johnsmeatonacademy.org.uk to request that a device is made available to your child no later than 15 December 2021. All devices should be returned to school when your child returns in January.

I hope that the above communication provides you with all of the information that you need in relation to both the end of this term and the beginning of next, however, if you have any questions, please email enquiries@johnsmeatonacademy.org.uk.