

Biddick Lane  
Washington  
Tyne & Wear  
NE38 8AL



---

Tel: 0191 511 1600  
Fax: 0191 417 2897

---

Headteacher:  
Miss K Morris

**Biddick**  
Academy

14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the academic year draws to a close, hopefully so do the challenging circumstances we have all faced over the last 18 months.

We are very proud of the way in which our students have handled the disruption to school life this academic year. They have shown real resilience, especially when having to self-isolate, livestreaming lessons and maintaining their effort and enthusiasm.

Despite the restrictions, there have been many highlights this year. The launch of the Character Award has proved hugely successful as has the extra-curricular programme. We are delighted to have introduced Senior Prefects to the Academy for the first time, the students shone with pride when presented with their Senior Prefect ties. We have also enjoyed hosting our new Year 7 students, who were able to visit us for a transition experience ahead of September.

### **SUMMER ACTIVITIES**

There are also plenty of experiences still to come with an over-subscribed Summer School taking place in the first week of the holidays and the launch of the new Academy uniform in September. Over the summer, there are plenty of subject competitions and challenges running. These range from reading challenges, Science experiments you can do at home, alongside focused curriculum challenges for students taking Computer Science or Enterprise and Marketing GCSE. All information regarding each of these challenges can be accessed via our website which also provides information on the range of prizes available. Please click the following link for further details: <https://biddickacademy.com/parents-carers/homework/>

For those students who are about to start Year 10 in September, we have also created a KS4 Bridging booklet. This booklet contains a variety of engaging activities for your child to access which will prepare them for the start of their new courses. For each course there is an activity to 'watch, read and do'. Your child may choose any of the activities linked to their chosen subjects which will help them be ready for their next steps. You can further details on the Academy website by clicking the following link:

<https://biddickacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Key-Stage-4-Bridging-Tasks-Summer-2021.pdf>

### **GUIDANCE FOR SEPTEMBER**

As you will know, there are significant changes to the guidance for schools regarding the autumn term and return of students in September. We are taking a proportionate approach to ensure running of the school returns to normal but maintaining health and safety measures.

#### **Close Contacts and Isolation**

- We should all continue to follow Public Health advice; your child should not come into school if they have symptoms or have had a positive test result.
- However, from 16<sup>th</sup> August, children under the age of 18 will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by Test and Trace. Instead, they will be advised to take a PCR test, if positive they should isolate.
- Anyone who develops symptoms during the school day will be sent home, avoiding the use of public transport.
- There is no longer the need to keep year groups separate, so your child will be able to move from lesson to lesson as normal.

### Times of the Day

- Start and finish times will no longer be staggered by year group.
- Students should arrive for a prompt 8:30am start to the day and line up in their year group outside area shown on the map below.



### Face Coverings

- Face coverings will not be required in school or on transport, however if your child wishes to wear one they may do so. Care should be taken to follow advice on the safe wearing of face coverings.

### Facilities

- We will be able to use the full range of facilities again, such as the Café, PE changing rooms and so on.
- Students will be using the PE changing rooms, so there is no need to wear their PE kit to school in the morning.

We hope that by the autumn term, the numbers of students self-isolating will be minimal, however we will continue to livestream lessons for those children where isolation is required.

### COVID Testing at the start of term onsite at Biddick Academy

All students have the option to take two Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests on site at Biddick Academy, 3 to 5 days apart at the start of term. This will be followed by testing at home throughout September.

The start of term and lessons for all students is **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September**, however if you would like your child to take part in the LFD tests, they will be given an appointment time on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September or Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

**Please note that the Academy is only open on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September for testing and appointment only uniform collection.**

For your child to be included in the LFD tests, you must give consent by completing the form via the following link:

[Consent for child to participate in on site COVID testing at Biddick Academy](#)

Deadline for providing consent is **9.00am Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021**. Please be aware that consent from the last round of testing in March is no longer valid.

Separate details including testing times will be sent to parents/carers before September. For now, all you need to do is give consent should you wish for your child to be included.

### DATES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

<b><u>TERM DATES 2021-2022</u></b>		
<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>LAST DAY IN SCHOOL</b>	<b>FIRST DAY BACK</b>
Summer Holiday	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
Autumn Term	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2021	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021
Christmas Holiday	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Spring Half Term	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Easter Holiday	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
May Day	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2022
Summer Half Term	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Summer Holiday	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022	To be confirmed

### UNIFORM – DEADLINE FOR ORDERING

We are very excited to see all of our students in the new Biddick Academy school uniform in September. If you haven't already ordered the new uniform, we would like to remind you that the **deadline** for ordering is **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021**. Ordering and paying for the new uniform online is really easy and you can find an instruction letter, a sizing guide and our Uniform Policy which has been sent to all parents and carers, on our website by clicking the following link <https://biddickacademy.com/parents-carers/uniform-and-equipment/>

## STAFFING UPDATE

At this time of year, we say goodbye to members of staff who are retiring or moving on to new posts; we wish Mr Dunston, Mrs Gardner, Mrs Tate, Miss Batty, Miss Jackson and Miss Smith good luck in their future endeavours.

I am delighted to say that we have appointed a number of highly skilled, specialist teachers in a variety of subject areas who I am sure will be an asset to the Academy.

Post	
Faculty Leader - Music	Mrs M. Tufnell
Music Teacher	Mr E. Todd
Lead Practitioner of Science	Mr J. Johnson
Lead Practitioner of Science	Mr G. Osa-Napier
Head of Year 7	Mr G. Wood
Maths Teacher	Ms S. Taylor
Geography/History Teacher	Ms N. Ramshaw
Science Teacher	Ms J. Walsh
Library Manager	Mrs Z. Bayley

I hope that you have a relaxed and restful break over the summer holidays and look forward to welcoming your son/daughter back in September.

Yours faithfully,



Miss K. Morris  
Headteacher