



West Main Street  
ARMADALE  
West Lothian  
EH48 3LY

Head Teacher : Graham Paris  
Depute Head Teacher : Ali Lewis  
Depute Head Teacher : Barry Speedie  
Depute Head Teacher : Jack McKay

Telephone No : 01506 282145  
E Mail Address : [wlarmadale-ac@westlothian.org.uk](mailto:wlarmadale-ac@westlothian.org.uk)  
Website : <http://armadaleacademy.westlothian.org.uk/>

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Dear Parent / Carer,

I would like to start this week's update with a request to parents / carers around two specific issues of concern.

Firstly, based on my observations and reviewing our attendance data, I am becoming increasingly concerned by the level of persistent student lateness from a small, but growing number of students first thing in the morning. We have re-iterated the importance of good timekeeping to all students through PSE lessons this week and have developed a new system of student reflection for those who are persistently late. I would like to ask for your ongoing support in encouraging your son / daughter to arrive in school by 08.30 to ensure they are prepared and ready for learning. This area is consistently highlighted by employers as a key component of employability and I firmly believe that good habits formed now, will support our students later in life.

In addition, we are increasingly receiving concerns from taxi companies who are involved in the drop off and pick up of students, about the volume of traffic at the top of the hill in the car park. Can I please ask that in the majority of cases if you are dropping off or picking up students, that this is done at the bottom car park. Thank you in advance for your support.

National 5 Prelims are now well underway. On the whole, students are responding well to both the rigour and challenge of these important exams. These will continue into next week before the Higher and Advanced Higher exams start on Thursday. Our thanks as always go out to our outstanding Invigilation Team who continue to ensure the smooth running of these exams.

We understand that, in particular, this time of year can be a stressful one for Senior students. We remain hugely committed to supporting students both on an academic level as well as an emotional one. The stress and pressure of SQA examinations must be considered against student emotional wellbeing and as such we continue to encourage students to find the right balance in their lives. I firmly believe that physical activity is a key element of that.

We have worked closely of late with our Active Schools Team who have developed an 'Active Minds' programme exclusively for Senior Phase Students. This programme has been developed in partnership with Personal Best and the 1<sup>st</sup> block of activity on offer will be a kickboxing fitness class. This opportunity is available to absolute beginners and students can sign up at the Active Schools Office.

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Mr G Paris  
Head Teacher



*Learning Together, Achieving Together*

