



July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you with important information ahead of the new academic year.

Firstly, the term ends on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July** and students will be dismissed at mid-day. Over the summer holiday it is important that your child engages with learning, especially reading each day for at least 30 minutes and engaging with key subjects such as maths and science. Your child can use on-line platforms available and Google Classroom. All curriculum information is available on the school website.

**Key dates for the new term:**

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September is induction day for Year 12
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> is induction day for Year 7
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September: All students in school at normal time
- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October: Progress Review Day
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October: Half-Term Holiday starts
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November: Students return to school at normal time

**Uniform**

I must also remind you of some key uniform standards so you can ensure your child is ready for September. Trousers or skirts must be grey and blazers must be worn. Jewellery is not permitted and earrings must be small plain studs. Painted nails are also prohibited. Shoes must be black and not trainers or canvas. Heads of Years will be contacting families if uniform is not correct and sanctions will be applied. We can of course support families with uniform if needed, so please contact us at the school.

**Mobile Phones**

You would have seen much in the news regarding young people and the excessive use and reliance upon mobile phones and social media. The impact upon mental health and well-being is a deeply concerning trend. Our policy is clear mobile phones must be turned off and out of sight for the school day. If they are seen or used staff are instructed to confiscate them and parents will need to come to school the following day. Parents must not contact their children on mobile phones during the day and important messages should go via the main office. As a school we encourage parents not to give your child a smart phone and instead a simpler phone on which you can contact your child out of school hours for safety reasons – which is totally understandable. We do need support with our policy and encourage you to strictly monitor your child's use of the internet and social media.

**Attendance and Punctuality**

This academic year we were the 4<sup>th</sup> highest local school for attendance which is good but we want to be above 96% next year which is the target for all students. Your child must be at school before 8.35am. The library is open from 7.45am and there are breakfast clubs. Persistent lateness or poor attendance may result in a fine issued by the Local Authority.

Again, I do ask all parents to uphold the key school policies which are the foundation for the right and professional attitude for school and future careers.

To support the above enclosed with this letter is a daily checklist which you can use at home with your child to ensure they are ready and prepared for learning every day. We will also be updating and sending to you a summary of the School Behaviour Policy and Parent Conduct Expectations. During the next academic year we will be running various workshops to support parents and ensure we are working closely together, this will include:

- Being safe on-line
- Reading and home learning
- Thinking about university and apprenticeships
- Using the SIMS app

If there are any particular workshops you wish to see available then please contact us. I would also remind you to attend one of my Headteacher Surgeries if you want to raise something with me. The dates for next year are:

- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 9.00am-10.30am – Byron Street Reception
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 9.00am – 10.30am – Byron Street Reception

I will be writing to you in September with updates and to share some fantastic news and stories regarding A-level and GCSE results. Before the end of term, we have Rewards Evening and Sports Day at which I look forward to seeing you. It was good to see many of you at the Year 11 Graduation and our KS3 Graduation event for Year 9, as a school we strongly feel it is important to mark and celebrate important and key milestones.

Finally, may I wish you all a wonderful summer break I hope the sun shines and all the students have an enjoyable holiday and I very much look forward to seeing them in September.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr N. Langham**  
**Headteacher**