

22nd July 2022

Dear Parents / Carers

As we approach the end of another busy term I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given to both your child and to the school throughout the year.

This year has continued to see challenges around staff and student absences due to Covid, however, despite these challenges we have managed to keep the school open and operate an extremely successful year for the whole school community. I'd like to thank all of our staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Together we have continued to not only rise to the challenges but also celebrate many achievements.

Our move from the Grammar School Lane site to the Brompton Road site at the beginning of the year has transformed and significantly improved our learning environment. We are very lucky to have these facilities and have enjoyed seeing our staff and students settle in this year. We have been able to return to more extra curricular learning experiences and our production of High School Musical, concerts, sporting events, French trip and many more opportunities have been a highlight.

In January we were visited by Ofsted and in spite of the disruption and challenges of the last two years we were judged to be 'Good' in all areas. We are delighted with this outcome and the recognition of the transformative journey of school improvement we are on. It is well deserved and reflects the positive ethos and culture we have built for our students and staff. I'd like to thank everyone connected to the school including the Arete Learning Trust, our Local Governing Board, parents, students and staff for the part you have played in this journey.

Looking forward to next year I am excited about the future and continuing to build on the successes of this year. Please see below useful information about the year ahead.

New school year 2022-23

- Wednesday 7th September 2022 - school reopens for Year 7 and Year 12 only. Year 7 will be on the Arbor side and Year 12 on Cuthbert in the sixth form centre.
- Thursday 8th September 2022 - school reopens for ALL year groups. Years 7,9,10 and Sixth form will be on Cuthbert side and Years 8 and 11 on Arbor.

Please note that the school site opens at 8.30am and students should arrive no later than 8.40am.

Rewards system

We are really looking forward to implementing our new rewards system which will see the profile of rewards being raised throughout the school. This will continue to build the positive culture that we have created and provide more opportunities to celebrate our students' successes.

Student progress reporting

We are also reviewing our communication to parents regarding student progress for the next academic year in response to the feedback you gave in the parent survey earlier this term. We have been working across the Trust to improve this process. When we start in September all parents will receive a copy of our school

learning journey which maps out the timings of progress reporting points, year group exams and parent consultation evenings.

New Pastoral Team

September will officially see our new teaching Heads of Year begin their roles, and they will be supported by pastoral officers. We kindly ask that should you need to make contact with any members of the pastoral team, that your child's form tutor is the first point of contact. Please also be aware that Heads of Year may not be available during the day due to teaching commitments. However, we will endeavour to respond to any communication requests within 48 hours.

Key Knowledge and Independent Learning

Next year we will be improving and clarifying the way in which the expected curriculum knowledge is communicated with students and parents. As a parent you will receive much more detailed information about the key knowledge and understanding that is expected to be secured across the curriculum. You will also receive more regular and detailed information about the extent to which your son / daughter has secured this knowledge and understanding. In response to the feedback you gave us earlier this term we are also launching a new independent learning (homework) policy which will provide greater clarity for you as parents of the work that is set and when it is set. We will be sharing more detailed information on these curriculum developments in September.

Uniform

Our school uniform is important to us - it plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos and values of our school. Smartness and high standards of appearance are expected at all times. Please find below a link to our uniform list (including PE Kit).

<https://www.northallertonschool.org.uk/key-information/uniform/>

Equipment

It is important that all students attend school fully equipped 'Ready' to participate in their learning. A list of basic items of equipment can be found using the link below:

<https://www.northallertonschool.org.uk/key-information/uniform/>

Timetable

Students in current Years 7,8,9,10 and 12 have already received their draft timetables for next year. All students, including current Year 6 students, will receive their final timetable on their first day in September. Any changes to timetables between now and September will be very minor.

Once again I would like to say a huge thank you for your continued support during the year. I hope you all have a lovely summer break and I very much look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Yours sincerely



Mrs V Rahn
Headteacher