



## Parent Bulletin – 7 June 2024

This week we have been thinking about our global neighbours, and how we can be there for many different communities, near and far. This month is dedicated to celebrating LGBTQ+ communities across the world, and to honour the infamous 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. This uprising represented the beginning of the Gay Liberation Movement in the US. The Stonewall Riots also helped pave the modern fight to abolish discriminatory laws against the LGBTQ+ community. Thanks to the Stonewall riots and protestors' demands, safe havens for LGBTQ+ people were established, where they could be open about their sexual orientations without fear of persecution or arrest. During pride month, we come together to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community in different ways. From parades and marches to festivals, dance parties, and commemorations, it's a great way to honour the historical battles, victories of the LGBTQ+ community, and be reminded that we are all equally loved by God. 'Let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.' 1 John 4:7-8.

### **Attendance at school**

While the statistics show there is a direct link between attendance and positive attainment, being in school is also about the other important moments that help shape young peoples' lives:

- Building positive relationships with friends
- Taking part in extracurricular activities and trips especially this summer half term with our planned retreats and other events
- Developing important personal skills
- Finding a sense of belonging within the school community

To ensure children realise their full potential, both academically and personally, they need to be in school and ready to learn at least 97% of the time. While there are times when absence is unavoidable, it is never too late to benefit from good attendance.

For those families, whose children are struggling to come to school, for whatever reason, please come and talk to us so we can help put together a plan, even more so when returning to school after a break in the term.

### **Maintaining high expectations**

A polite reminder - we expect that students are in full uniform every day. It goes without saying that the start of a new half term is a perfect opportunity for everyone to reset. Our high standards and expectations with regards to uniform remain the same and further details can be found in the [Family Handbook](#), on the school website, should you need a reminder:

### **Peer Mentor Training**

This week we've trained nine Peer Mentors, with more to come soon.

Peer Mentoring is a brilliant way for younger students, who need that little bit extra, to get some help and support from older, more experienced students.



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This term our peer mentors will be working across Key Stage 3 and in September, helping the new Year 7 students get settled in and off to a good start.

It is a fabulous opportunity for our Year 12 students to be involved in, as well as a great chance to develop their own skills, and to act as role models for our younger students. It is a valuable and much appreciated contribution and we're looking forward to seeing some tremendous work happening around school this term and next.

### **UCAS**

Year 12 have been given information regarding the UCAS application process and some deadlines are already set for them. The first is to:

- Open a UCAS account and enter personal details – by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

Further information for parents and guardians can be found at:

<https://www.ucas.com/file/836141/download?token=zZ3xQW58>

### **Athletics Success**

Before half term, several Y9 and Y10 students travelled to Monkton Stadium for the day to represent the school in the Senior ENSAA area athletics competition. As always, the students behaved fantastically, and all gave it their best on the day. Out of the students who competed, some qualified for the next round, representing East Northumberland at the County Track and Field Championships, taking place in Hexham this Saturday. If successful, they will represent Northumberland at the Inter-Counties Schools' Track and Field Championships. We wish these students the best of luck in their events.

Niamh Adams: 300m and 800m

Blake Fordy: High jump

Yasmine Jaucian: Javelin

Kobin Summers: 800m

Harrison Scott: 200m

Next week, our Y7 and Y8 students will also be travelling to Monkton Stadium to represent the school in the Minor ENSAA area athletics competition. Good luck to all involved. We look forward to updating you with their successes.

### **News from the library**

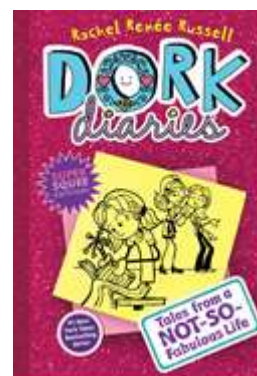
Our school library continues to be a real success; in September we revamped our stock with a thousand new books from Northumberland schools library service and installed 'reading cloud' software to scan books in and out. This has ensured our books are all accounted for, and our students have taken good care of them so far. Year 7 and 8 continue to have a designated 'library lesson' where they read a book of their choosing and follow this up with a book quiz. Every book quiz passed generates points and students with the most points are rewarded at the end of each term. This year we have given out over 40 rewards! We love to update our genres, and this term we have introduced a section for sport and teenage fiction and expanded our KS4 books for older readers. Please encourage your child to use the school library.

This month's most popular book: Dork Diaries by Rachel Renee Russell

The school library is open every first break, lunchtime and after school for reading or homework.

If you have a child in Y7 or Y8, please encourage them to read their library book at home

This week's quote: ***"You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me."*** — C.S. Lewis



### **Y11 Study Leave**

A huge thank you to our Y11 cohort for their hard work and resilience during this exam period. We are incredibly proud of everything you have done so far and have been so impressed with your approach to exams. Monday 10th June marks the beginning of study leave, and from now on year 11 students are only expected to attend school for their exams. It is essential that students still attend exams in full school uniform and are in school and ready to enter the exam hall no later than 15 mins before the official exam start time. Students should go directly to the Sports Hall before exams and leave site promptly following the completion of exams. Should transport be an issue, Y11 students are welcome to use our LRC area in between exams for silent study. Please direct any queries surrounding study leave to the Y11 pastoral team.

### **Year 10 Trial Exams**

Year 10 are now halfway through their trial exam fortnight and have risen to the challenge with maturity and a positive attitude. Some exams have been in classrooms, but this week the students had their first experience of sitting a longer exam in the Sports Hall. As well as giving students the opportunity to practice being in this unfamiliar environment, and develop their study habits further – the trial exams also give teachers the opportunity to measure progress at the end of Year 10. This will help identify gaps in knowledge and allow targeted support to close any gaps.

Year 10 students will receive the results of these assessments in a 'Mock Results' Core Studies lesson on the Tuesday, 2 July 2024. This will be followed by Year 10 Parents Evening.

### **Year 10 Parents' Evening**

Year 10 Parents' Evening has been rearranged from 26 June 2024 to the following week on 3 July 2024 to enable us to incorporate the mock exam results.

### **Y10 Work Experience**

Our year 10 students are looking forward to beginning their work experience on Monday June 17<sup>th</sup>. Can you please ensure that your child is aware of what time the employer wants them to start and what clothing they should be wearing. All of this information can be found on their Unifrog account under the employer details section of the work placement form. All students will be issued with a letter on Friday June 13<sup>th</sup> with information for their employer on safeguarding, GDPR etc. which should be handed to the employer on their first day.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.



Mr K Shepherd  
Headteacher