



17/06/2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

Update letter

Many thanks for all your continued support. This term continues to be a very busy one with Year 11 coming to the end of their formal examinations and Year 10 involved with their mock examinations. Both year groups are coping well with the demands and continue to work hard to secure success.

Key stage 3 students have had an excellent year this year in terms of their engagement in learning. We have had a number of concerns around the use of social media and have taken a very hard line in terms of those students involved. Please support us by ensuring your child is not using these facilities in an unacceptable way. We have found that many parents are now using a platform called 'Google Parent' which allows you to offer a layer of protection by having access to your child's accounts, you may find this free resource useful.

As you know the School's Governing Body has decided that they wish to explore conversion to Academy status and joining Advanced Learning Partnership. The formal consultation period opened on 27th May 2022 and will remain open until 1st July 2022. We would welcome your views and comments using the online form at: [Academy Consultation](#). Thank you.

As you also will be aware we had a visit from Ofsted in March 2022. There are many positive aspects recognised by Ofsted and also areas that are currently in our Development Plan ensuring that we continue to secure improvement.

Key strengths include:

- *Our ambitious careers education plan, which has seen many students supported in their next steps and engage with local employers*
- *Our package of support around attendance*
- *Our safeguarding*
- *Our key stage 3 'Well Being' curriculum which since Ofsted has been implemented within key stage 4*
- *Reading which continues to be developed in terms of every child securing a love of reading*
- *Our SEND provision*
- *Our multidisciplinary approach to care*
- *Aspects of our curriculum planning and delivery particularly in french and sharply focused assessments particularly in maths and history, we continue to focus on securing a consistently high standard across all curriculum areas*

Whilst we recognise that many strengths have emerged we also recognise and continue to strive to be a good / outstanding school and will continue to work tirelessly to secure this.

We continue to work closely with the LA and external agencies to support our continual improvement. The full Ofsted report is available on our website.

Thank you to the parents who took the time to complete the Ofsted Parent Survey, we listen very carefully to all our stakeholders and review our practice to secure the necessary improvements.

The results of the Parent Survey are extremely positive for the last two years:

- 92% agreed that their child is happy at our school
- 92% agreed that their child felt safe at our school
- 93% said that either they had never had a concern or when a concern is raised it is dealt with properly
- 100% were happy with the SEND provision at school
- 100% said there were a good range of subjects offered at the school
- 100% agreed that their child took part in activities / clubs at the school
- 92% agreed the school supports their child's wider personal development

As always we are totally committed to ensuring 100% of our parents share these positive views of our school.

Thank you for supporting attendance, our EWO, Gemma Somerville will continue to work with you and your child and support whenever it is needed. A reminder that attendance should not fall below 96%. Again we are working with the Attendance team at the local authority to ensure students are not missing vital education.

In terms of uniform thank you for continuing to support our high expectations, any concerns about replacement uniform please get in touch.

We understand that there has been some concern in terms of lateness of school transport, any concerns around transport should be reported to both school and the local authority transport team, it is essential that this service meets the needs of our students. There appears to be an ongoing issue with public transport from New Brancepeth so we are currently looking at the possibility of running a school minibus, if you are interested in securing a place on this bus please contact Mrs White.

We are working towards the Excellence in Pupil Development Award over the next year. You will receive information about this through questionnaires and updates on our website. If you would like to be involved in the working group please let us know.

Joining in with the celebrations of the Queen's Jubilee, we enjoyed a fabulous afternoon tea where all students were able to take part.



Finally I would like to make you aware of the latest public health update and the opportunities to secure a vaccination for your child.

Covid-19 vaccination offer for children aged 5-11 years old and young people aged 12 to 17 years old.

Venue: Tesco Extra Car Park, Annfield Plain

Date: Saturday 18th June

Time: 10:00am – 06:00pm

Venue: Morrisons Car Park, Dalton Park Outlet Shopping Centre, Murton

Date: Saturday 18th June and Saturday 25th June

Time:

- 10:00am – 01:00pm: 1st and 2nd doses for 5 – 11 year olds
- 02:00pm – 06:00pm: 1st and 2nd doses for 12 – 17 year old

Venue: County Hall, Durham


Date: Sunday 19th June and Sunday 26th June

Time:

- 10:00am – 01:00pm: 1st and 2nd doses for 5 – 11 year olds
- 02:00pm – 06:00pm: 1st and 2nd doses for 12 – 17 year olds

As always thank you very much for working with us, please get in touch if you have a concern or a question.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Jobling
Headteacher