

July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of the school year I want to thank you for your continued support of our school. A strong partnership between school and parents and carers is critical to ensuring each young person receives the very best education.

### **Staff team at Whickham**

I am sure you will join me in also thanking our staff at Whickham for their work over the last year. Staff have gone above and beyond in ensuring academic and pastoral support meet the needs of all children. I am very proud of my colleagues and appreciate their efforts.

### **September 2022**

School will open for all students on Wednesday 7th September. Year 7 will have use of our Gibside building helping them ease into the school without the need for a staggered start.

### **Results Days & Sixth Form Enrolment**

Results will be distributed from the main hall and pupils will need to sign in at the welcome desk within the atrium.

<b>A-Level Results</b> Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	Yr 13 can collect from 8am until midday Yr 12 can collect from 10.30am until midday
<b>GCSE Results</b> Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	Yr 11 can collect from 9.00am
<b>Sixth Form Enrolment</b> Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	Following GCSE results collection (until midday)

### **Start of term arrangements**

Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th September 2022	Staff Training  <b>Y12 &amp; 13</b> will be in school on Tuesday 6th September
Wednesday 7th September 2022  Students should be at school by 8.35am for the registration bell at 8.40am.	All students to attend  <b>Yr 7 &amp; 12</b> will have photographs taken which will be available to purchase.

## Road Safety

We would like to remind parents of the importance of road safety for our students coming in and out of school. May we remind you that parking on the double yellow lines on Burnthouse Lane is dangerous and can obstruct pedestrians and impair their vision when crossing the road. We encourage, where possible, students to walk or cycle to and from school. Where parents must pick up their children we suggest arranging a location a few minutes walk away from school.

## Equipment / Planners

Please ensure that equipment packs (see list of contents below) are full and ready for the start of term. Any orders for the September return to school for equipment packs (£5) or calculators (£8.50) should be made on ParentPay by 12th August to ensure that stock will be received in time for the start of the year. Any purchased items will be distributed via your child's tutor in September.

Planners are a requirement for all students at a cost of £2. New Art sketchbooks should be purchased by all Yr 8 & 9 students at a cost of £2. Again, payment for these items should be made using ParentPay. <https://www.parentpay.com/>

Equipment pack items students require:														
<table><tr><td>Compass</td><td>Coloured pens or pencils</td></tr><tr><td>Eraser</td><td>Clear pencil case</td></tr><tr><td>Pens (1 black, 1 green)</td><td>Whiteboard pen</td></tr><tr><td>Pencil</td><td>Post it pad</td></tr><tr><td>Pencil sharpener</td><td>Index/Flash cards</td></tr><tr><td>Protractor</td><td>Whiteboard cleaning cloth</td></tr><tr><td>Highlighter</td><td>Ruler</td></tr></table>	Compass	Coloured pens or pencils	Eraser	Clear pencil case	Pens (1 black, 1 green)	Whiteboard pen	Pencil	Post it pad	Pencil sharpener	Index/Flash cards	Protractor	Whiteboard cleaning cloth	Highlighter	Ruler
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## Uniform

Please be reminded that we have high expectations with regard to uniform which are detailed in the following link '[How to wear the school uniform](#)'. We expect students to arrive wearing the correct uniform and of course, this year will see students in our new uniform. As a school, we maintain a spare stock of uniform and students will be expected to borrow items to ensure they are meeting school expectations. Any unresolved breaches of these expectations will be dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy.

School ties, however, must now be purchased directly from Michael Sehgal's and are no longer available to purchase via ParentPay.

A reminder that any unwanted uniform items or PE kits can be dropped off at our main reception over the summer break. A clothing recycling bin will also be on site in our car park to deposit any plain uniform items (such as plain white shirts, plain black trousers and plain black skirts).

## School Meals

The cost of school meals will increase by 10p in September to £2.25 for the meal of the day. Whickham School pride ourselves in our commitment to ensure our children receive a good quality offer for a fair price. As part of the hot main meal offer, this also includes a drink to compliment the main meal and pudding.

### **Free School Meal Vouchers**

Vouchers will continue to be provided throughout the holiday period. This applies to students in years 7-11. If you have changed your contact details recently please ensure that the school records are updated promptly. Any queries please contact the school office (0191) 4960026 or email: [info@whickhamschool.org](mailto:info@whickhamschool.org)

### **ParentPay**

Parents and carers are encouraged to support school by paying for school meals, trips, visits and equipment etc using our online services, which can be found on the school website via the following link 'Parents/ParentPay'. Within ParentPay you are able to view the catering menu offer week by week, and also see what your child has purchased each day. ParentPay also allows you to be able to view trip payments and balances, set reminders and monitor what your child is purchasing. If you require a new username and login for the ParentPay system, please either email [finance@whickhamschool.org](mailto:finance@whickhamschool.org) or telephone the main school office.

### **INSET 2022/23**

INSET days have been calendared for the following dates. Students should not attend on these dates.

- 5th September 2022
- 6th September 2022
- 2nd December 2022
- 9th January 2023

### **Advance notice of key dates**

Please see the term dates section of our website. This includes dates for the 23/24 academic year: <https://www.whickhamschool.org/key-information/term-dates/>

The parents'/carers' evening dates for the next academic year are detailed below.

- |                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| ● Year 7 (Meet the tutor) | 11th October 2022  |
| ● Year 7                  | 9th May 2023       |
| ● Year 8                  | 25th April 2023    |
| ● Year 9                  | 7th February 2023  |
| ● Year 10                 | 28th February 2023 |
| ● Year 11                 | 24th January 2023  |
| ● Year 12                 | 29th November 2022 |
| ● Year 13                 | 28th March 2023    |

### **Sports Camp - Week commencing 25th July and Week commencing 1st August**

We have been working in partnership with Gateshead Council 'Brighten the Day' team, who have allocated funding for 80 children to participate with a free place on the programme and parents have been contacted to confirm their funded place.

In addition there is an opportunity for parents who did not secure a funded place for their child to sign up as a paid participant. If you would like to make an inquiry as to a paid place for this summer sports camp, please email: [hafprogramme@whickhamschool.org](mailto:hafprogramme@whickhamschool.org)

### **Parents/Carers of Children in Primary Schools**

For those of you who also have children of primary school age, I am aware that it is an important time for making the decision about which is the right school for your child's secondary education. Due to the popularity of our Year 6 Open Evening (for children beginning secondary education in September 2023) we will hold four events over two dates to ensure we can provide information about the school and answer any questions to as many parents as possible. The dates and times are detailed below and the booking form can be found in the Year 6 section of our school [website](#);

- Thursday 22nd September (5pm and 7pm start times)
- Tuesday 27th September (5pm and 7pm start times)

If you have any queries regarding admissions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Sutton (Office Administrator Admissions). Enquiries regarding Sixth Form enrolment should be directed to Miss Tumelty (Head of Sixth Form). The telephone number for the school is 0191 4960026.

I hope that you have a wonderful summer and I look forward to welcoming all students back in September.

Yours sincerely

Fraser Turnbull

Headteacher

