

21 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a pleasure to celebrate the start of the Christmas season as a school community at the end of the autumn term. In addition to our rewards afternoons throughout the week, Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day, we celebrated together in our whole school rewards assembly this afternoon.

Praise and rewards

The autumn term has seen 51247 praise points issued to students, recognising the many and varied achievements of our students. All of our students benefit from a range of reading and literacy interventions, and many have received rewards for their progress including prizes from the book vending machine, Accelerated Reader prizes, phonics group graduation awards. We have also supported families across Teesside with our recent raffle, which raised funds for Zoe's Place.

Year 11

Our hardworking Year 11 students received their autumn assessment results this half term, as they continue to prepare for GCSE exams in the summer. Many of our students were rightly proud of their progress and recognised the direct link between commitment, effort and achievement. A significant number of students received certificates - 24 for achieving excellent results and 44 for exceptional effort in assessments and revision. The next set of Year 11 mock exams commences on 19 February 2024. All students have bespoke support in the classroom, in enrichment and for many with one to one tutors.

Uniform and equipment standards

The start of a new term is a perfect opportunity to ensure that your child is properly dressed and equipped for school, in accordance with our [Uniform Policy](#), specifically:

- A school blazer, white shirt and school tie must be worn by all students
- Black trousers or a black skirt that meets the requirements of our uniform policy must be worn by all students
- A pair of black, polishable, shoes must be worn by all students
- All students must have a bag, planner, pen, pencil and ruler
- Coats must not be worn in the school building
- Jewellery must not be worn by students in school
- Makeup, if worn by students, must not be visible.

Students will be supported to rectify issues with uniform and equipment.

New timetables

Students will receive an updated copy of their timetable in tutor time on Monday 8 January to reflect a few minor changes to our whole school timetable.

Attendance and punctuality

Please can I take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers of our Attendance and Punctuality Policies, in line with DfE guidance to schools (Working Together to Improve Attendance). We close the morning registers 30 minutes after the start of the school day. The school day starts at 8.25am and so if your child arrives after 8.55am this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence code in the register, impacting on overall attendance. Persistent lateness to school will lead to prosecution and a fixed penalty notice.

Key dates for next half term

Year 9 Guided Pathways Parents' Evening	Thursday 11 January 2024 at 5.00pm
Year 7 Parents' Evening	Thursday 18 January 2024 at 5.00pm
Year 11 Mock Exams	Monday 19 February - Friday 1 March 2024

The start of the spring term

All students should arrive on Monday 8 January 2024 before 8.20am ready for registration in tutor groups at 8.25am.

All of the opportunities and support available to our students are a result of the commitment, enthusiasm and professionalism of every member of staff. I am very grateful to each of them for all they have done to put our students first throughout this long term.

With my best wishes to you and your family for a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Yours faithfully



Mark Robinson
Principal