

18<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, can I thank you all for your support and engagement this year. Bringing up a teenager isn't easy at times, particularly when the challenges of everyday life can be difficult, but the connection between home and school remains critical to each individual child's chances of success and by working together we can collectively achieve this.

After a busy week of elite athletics, the Challenge Walk, Gutterball bowling, Zone day and lessons, we now put our minds to September so here are some important reminders as well as arrangements for the first day back.

### Attendance

The minimum expectation for attendance is 95%, even this means 10 full days missed or 50 hours of learning, which is very difficult to catch up due to how packed the curriculum is. We also know that attendance and achievement are directly linked:

95%+ Attendance	85%-90% Attendance	Below 80% Attendance
On average all students make expected or better than expected progress.	On average students achieve 1 grade lower than expected progress in all subjects.	On average students achieve nearly 2 grades lower than expected progress in all subjects.

So, if your child is below 95% attendance this year, let's collectively try to reduce absence next year to help them achieve their potential.

New legislation comes into force in September around term time holidays. As is currently the case no holiday is authorised, but fines are increasing from £60 to £80 per child per parent meaning that a family of 4 going on holiday would lead to a £320 fine. If a second holiday is taken then the fines are doubled. I am sympathetic around the cost of getting away during school holidays, but I will no longer be able to waive fines in line with LA and government guidance.

### Uniform

Just a reminder that our Uniform Standards can be found on our website, which tell you everything you need to know. If anything is unclear, please get in touch with the school office or your child's Head of Year. A few reminders:

- Footwear should be all black with no other colour for trims or logos. Canvas converse are not allowed for school or PE
- One nose stud is allowed, but no nose rings

**Headteacher Mr Jonathan Heath**  
John Spence Community High School, Preston Road, North Shields, NE29 9PU.

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- One pair of ear studs are allowed. All new piercings should be done at the start of the summer as they will need to be removed for PE
- No acrylic nails

We have a large stock of spare uniform so will provide alternatives for anyone that arrives in school not in the correct uniform.

#### Timings for the new school day

**As previously mentioned in my bulletin, from September students are expected to be on site for 8.30am and registration will start at 8.35am.** This brings us in line with the government expectation of a minimum 32.5-hour week for students.

#### Arrangements for the start of term

Students return to school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Year groups should arrive at the following times:  
Year 7

- On site by 8.30am
- Assembly at 8.35am
- Periods 1-3 in form classes
- Period 4 normal lessons

#### Years 8-11

- On site by 11.10am
- Period 3 in form groups at 11.15am
- Period 4 normal lessons

Please note that there will be no breaktime food service on the first day back.

Just to remind you, students finish school at 1pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July and the school office will shut at 1.30pm. As ever, if you do have any concerns or queries please do get in touch, the easiest way during the holidays is via email on [office@johnspence.org.uk](mailto:office@johnspence.org.uk).

Finally, our summer term newsletter will be published tomorrow highlighting all the amazing things that have happened this term alongside the many achievements of our students. Thank you once again for your support, I hope you all have a great summer and I look forward to welcoming the students back to school in September.

Best wishes



Jonathan Heath  
Headteacher