

12 April 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Vicki Rahn, the Vice Principal of Northallerton School & Sixth Form College. During Chris Drew's absence, I want to reassure all parents and families of my commitment and determination to continue to lead NSSFC on its journey to provide excellence for the young people of this area. Jan Linsley, Chair of the Interim Executive Board (IEB), joins me and the established Senior Leadership Team to ensure rapid progress continues to be made.

- Assistant Principal, Sarah Bell, will continue to lead on safeguarding, behaviour and the pastoral team
- Assistant Principal, John Stewart, will continue to focus on developing and maintaining standards
- Assistant Principal, Rachel Mills, will continue to lead on teaching and learning
- Assistant Principal, Charlie Smart, will continue to lead on Pupil Premium
- Business Manager, Anna Wilson
- Senior Teacher, Anna Cox, will continue to lead on the Year 7 curriculum development of SAIL
- Keith Lewin will continue to work with our pastoral team
- Paul Fazakerley will continue to support our data analysis and timetabling.

We would like to share with you and reflect on the significant progress that we have already made this term.

Following our successful Ofsted monitoring visit in December, an external peer review took place of our Year 7 SAIL curriculum in January. This highlighted many positives and is part of our wider curriculum improvement plan, which includes student personal development.

Some of the many examples of the positive contributions of our students this term include the ski trip to Austria in February, during which our students were great ambassadors for the school. This was commented upon by both the public and the staff at the ski resort. In March, £969.79 was raised for 'Freddie's Fight' through a non-uniform day led by a sixth form student. Twenty eight talented students participated in the school production of 'Alice'. This was a play written by Laura Wade, a professional playwright. Our students performed to a high standard and received many accolades from the audiences. In addition, two visiting musicians led an inspiring song-writing workshop for students in Years 7, 8, and 9.

Inter-house competitions have continued to develop this term. Several sporting events have taken place and more recently a maths pi competition. The World Challenge expedition has been launched with ten students across Years 10, 11 and 12 who are taking part in fundraising events for an expedition to India in the summer of 2020. A successful Year 11 Geography field trip to Redcar has taken place and BBC Bitesize has presented a careers roadshow for different year groups. Fantastic feedback was received from students with exciting presentations from a range of roles within media.

Other opportunities have included an Oxford and Cambridge university presentation and our Sixth Form taster day took place in March. We enjoyed providing Year 11 students with the opportunity to sample life as a sixth former here at NSSFC. Some students visited Middlesbrough and Darlington Colleges to gain an insight into apprenticeships and vocational opportunities.



We have been very impressed with the increased focus and determination of students in Year 11 and Year 13 as they prepare for their exams in the summer term. Year 11's conduct during their trial exams was praised by our team of invigilators. Learning in lessons has been praiseworthy and attendance at revision sessions, both before and after school, is to be commended. We are all supporting them in their final preparations and we wish them all every success next term.

We recently enjoyed working with a group of parents at the last parents' forum and reviewed several aspects of the school with them. This has led to us reaffirming our mission statement 'Learning and Achieving Together'. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents who support our school on a daily basis and we look forward to being a part of further opportunities to develop this work. Please see our newsletter this week to see information about 'grab a bag' and parent ambassadors, which have arisen from the work of this group.

In our drive to raise standards and the quality of teaching and learning, we have collaborated with several external professionals, including the Local Authority and staff from the Arête Learning Trust to develop high expectations and research-informed practice. There has been sustained implementation of new strategies across each year group that we are busy embedding. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Local Authority for their continued support as well as the Arête Learning Trust for the collaborative work taking place.

There will be a parents' meeting on Wednesday 1st May 2019 at 5.30pm (for parents of students in Years 7 and 8) and 7.00pm (for parents in Years 9 to 13) to share details of where the school is and where it is going. We would like to invite parents to join us on this evening and provide an opportunity to hear from the IEB, Local Authority and CEO of the Arête Learning Trust. We will also be joined by members of the Senior Leadership Team.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a safe and happy Easter break. We look forward to starting the new term on Monday 29th April 2019.

Yours faithfully



Vicki Rahn
Vice Principal



Jan Linsley
Chair of the IEB