

Head of School's Weekly Update 21 May 2021

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

Laura and Lennon, as part of the Student Council, started the Walk to School campaign on Monday. This was a fantastic opportunity for our young people to opt to walk or cycle to school this week, where at all possible. The purpose of this was to help reduce our carbon footprint, promote mental and physical wellbeing through exercise and hopefully help parents and carers save a little extra on petrol money too!



SIXTH FORM INSTAGRAM PAGE

We are in the process of starting our own Sixth Form Instagram page, to promote our sixth form, our council, our subject offer and our opportunities. Further information will be provided in the coming weeks.

COVID - UPDATE

We have had **no** positive COVID cases reported in our school community this week.

Students should continue to carry out a Lateral Flow Test at home on a Sunday night and a Wednesday night and report these home test results to the NHS on <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and also to the school by using the following link <https://forms.gle/csVPoVWY8wYoUbvL9>.

We would ask that if your child receives a positive test result that you contact the school as soon as possible so that we can track and trace and quickly identify any close contacts. This can be done by either phoning the school on 01609 773340 or by sending an email to the school on response@northallertonschool.org.uk The household will also need to isolate and a PCR test

should be arranged for your child at a local testing centre as soon as possible.

Please note that if your child is showing symptoms of COVID (temperature, cough, loss of taste or smell) then a PCR test needs to be arranged at a testing centre and you should not use a home LFT. This also applies if your child is sent home with COVID symptoms. The child (and household members) should self-isolate until the result is received.

Thank you for your continued support with this. Updated DfE guidance for parents can be viewed [here](#)

We have also included a link [here](#) to a blog about the importance of testing and reporting which also features further guidance and common questions and details financial support available to parents whose children are asked to self-isolate after contact with a positive case.

Our COVID risk assessment has been updated and is available on our website - this can also be accessed [here](#).

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Attendance to school has again been positive, with a huge 806 students attending school with 100% attendance last week. This is the largest number of 'Attendance Heroes' we have had this year! Well done to you all!

To celebrate the end of what has been a longer than usual half term and to continue the theme of positive attendance, we will be providing a small prize for any student who has 100% attendance and is on time for school during the last week of the half term (Mon 24th May - Fri 28th May).

Let's make the final week a hugely positive and rewarding experience for all of our youngsters and on behalf of Heads of Year, tutors and all staff at the school, thank you for your continued support with positive attendance.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Year 12 - An email was sent out earlier in the week explaining the arrangements for the training sessions taking place after the half term break, to ensure all silver award participants are well prepared for their silver qualifying expedition. The expedition will take place in the first few weeks of the next academic year. Please can parents respond to the Google Form by next Friday (28th). Thank you.

Year 10 - Next week, we will send out invites to bronze participants who have made sufficient progress with their bronze award. This will be an invitation to take part in the training sessions to ensure participants are well prepared for their bronze qualifying expedition, taking place later in the summer term.

LOLLIPOPS and ENERGY DRINKS

We have noticed that some students are bringing lollipops and energy drinks into school. Both of these items are not allowed on the school site and will be confiscated. Both items are very unhealthy due to the high sugar and caffeine content. Please can you encourage your child not to purchase these items and then try to bring them into school. A message will also go out to all students to remind them of this.

UNIFORM 2021/2022

In light of the recent Bill that has been passed in Parliament, I know that some parents/carers will be thinking about school uniform purchases in the coming months and may be uncertain about what to buy. **I would just like to confirm that there will be no changes to our uniform for September 2021.** The Government will publish the statutory guidance in the autumn this year. We will also be undertaking a tender exercise with the Trust to ensure that our mandatory uniform items represent best value. **Any identified changes will be for September 2022.**

EDUCATION ARTS FESTIVAL

Next Friday, 28 May, we aim to help social media get flooded with examples of work from across the Arts Faculty. Nationally, the Education Arts Festival is wanting schools and education establishments to post examples of their students' work on Twitter to remind people of all that has been missed in the Arts due to the lockdowns, as well as all the great work that has been done since schools have returned. We

plan to share examples of Drama, Music and Art work created by our students this year and add to the flood! Look out for #EduArtsFest on Twitter and social media next Friday and keep your eyes peeled for the contributions #NSSFC make.

YEAR 7 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Last week was an exciting week for our Personal Development Awards as over 20 students have now achieved their Bronze Award and the Silver Award was also launched.

'It is our attitude, not our aptitude that decides our altitude'

AVALON WALL HANGING

On Tuesday evening, Miss Allsop was delighted to be accompanied by several Year 7 students (Art ambassadors) to start the design and making of a tactical wall hanging for The Avalon Group. The Avalon Group is a registered day service for older adults in Northallerton with a range of needs such as dementia. Our students have been tasked with creating a textile wall hanging for their new premises. The tactile nature of the piece is aimed to engage the viewer and help stimulate the senses. The group have developed a sea theme and have been exploring and experimenting with various textiles techniques. Miss Allsop said "It was thrilling to see all students so enthralled and energetic in contributing to the wall hanging and I am excited to see the final outcome. Students are invited every Week 1 Tuesday after school to work on the group piece. As a school we feel very privileged to have been asked to create such a wonderful piece for a local community cause and we are so excited to see the piece take shape and then take pride of place in the new centre".