

Head of School's Weekly Update 11 June 2021

FROM THE HEAD

I would like to congratulate our winners of the John Dennis Award and the Cuthbert Cross Award. The John Dennis Award is given to the students (Year 11) who by their attitude, commitment and honourable conduct, have contributed most to the character and reputation of the school and the Cuthbert Cross which was first awarded in 1910 and represents the school's historical association with Durham Cathedral is awarded annually to the two students (Year 13) who best exemplify our school values of friendship, excellence and respect and have done most to enhance the reputation of the school. This year's worthy winners were Ben H and Yasmin M for the John Dennis Award and Laura R and Sam M for the Cuthbert Cross Award. See the full report on our website soon.



NEW SITE UPDATE

We are so excited to see our new school take shape

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SAFEGUARDING - ONLINE SAFETY

Please find [here](#) June's Online Safety Newsletter which contains some useful and informative information.

SIXTH FORM NEWS

We would like to welcome our Year 12s back to college and hope equally that our Year 13s are enjoying their time away from college to meet friends, family and to catch up on missed time.

Year 12 assessments start the week commencing 21st June and we hope that all of our students have spent some time revising and preparing for the upcoming assessments. A reminder to parents and carers that students should be revising each night on the run up to the assessment period.

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.

LIFE CURRICULUM

The focus of this half term's LIFE curriculum is all about staying safe. Lessons look at contextual safeguarding issues children may face and help young people to develop strategies to manage risk and look after their own health and wellbeing.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

A huge congratulations to the winning tutor groups of our attendance leagues from last half term.

**Premier League - 11TBU
Championship - 10MWI
League 1 - 11MLA
League 2 - 10AST
Conference - 11SOS**

The vast majority of students at Northallerton School attend well. Currently over 60% of our Year 7-10 students have attendance rates of 97% or above, since returning to school on March 8th 2021.

Despite these recent successes, attendance remains below national averages, including the attendance of disadvantaged students. We firmly believe we are well on the way to making the necessary changes which will result in positive improvements in attendance, with official attendance data showing trends that indicate increased overall attendance, despite the difficult circumstances surrounding COVID-19. However, your support in reinforcing our

high expectations of high levels of attendance at school is greatly appreciated. Together - we can be the best we can be - and make a difference.

TUTORS IN SEPTEMBER

Parents of Year 6 children will be receiving their admission packs in the next few days. They contain lots of useful information including the tutor group and house that their child will be in, along with an invitation to 'Meet The Tutor' evenings.

With our students in Years 7 to 12 we will, as usual, do our best to ensure continuity, with students remaining with the same tutor group where possible.

TRANSITION

Plans for the transition of students in Year 6 into Year 7 are gathering pace. We look forward to welcoming the children and their parents to the 'Meet The Tutor' evenings on Thursday 1st July and Wednesday 7th July. Head of the new Year 7, Miss Robson, along with Assistant Head Miss Cox and CEO Mr Crane, will be visiting the primary schools to meet the children on Thursday 8th July and Friday 9th July. We are also looking forward to our Induction Week Wednesday 14th to Friday 16th July.

YEAR 7, 8, 9 PROGRESS EVENINGS

Parents of students in Years 7, 8, 9 will have received a letter with details of how to book appointments for our progress evenings - Thursday 17th June and Thursday 24th June. The meetings will be held online using a dedicated piece of software (Schoolcloud) which has been used successfully in the other trust schools. In these online meetings, parents will have the opportunity to meet with the subject teachers to discuss their child's academic progress. The system is very flexible and parents can make appointments on the days and times that are convenient to them.

Should you experience any difficulties logging onto this system, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

YEAR 11 LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY

On Friday 28th May, we held our Year 11 leavers' assembly, to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of our Year 11 students. Many students received awards including the John Dennis Award.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The Year 10 after school training sessions started this Wednesday (09/06) for the DofE bronze participants who have progressed onto the expedition phase of the award. A very enjoyable and well-attended session focused on developing participants' map and compass skills, which will be used during this Saturday's practice walk. Next Wednesday's session will concentrate on basic first aid training. The qualifying expedition will take place on Saturday 17th July and Sunday 18th July.

We are also looking forward to the Year 12 training sessions, which will commence next Tuesday (15/06) morning, from 08:15 - 09:10 in the main hall. Please can parents ensure they have completed the Google Form before Tuesday. Thank you.

EDUCATION ARTS FESTIVAL

On the last day of half term, Northallerton School proudly took part in the online Festival of School and College Arts. During that day, as part of a national campaign to flood social media, the Expressive Arts Faculty contributed by posting a wide range of examples of our students' work across Drama, Art, and Media.

Over the course of the day, Mr Stimson, through the Northallerton School Drama Instagram, Twitter and Facebook accounts, posted over 40 tweets, showcasing our students' art, music and drama work. The shared examples highlighted just some of the excellent work of our students across all year groups through a range of music recordings, performance videos, and over 100 photographs of our students' creative work.

These were seen by hundreds of other schools and colleges taking part and we even received a reply from Geoff Barton, the General Secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL), who has regularly appeared on BBC News discussing education during lockdown.

If you missed any of the work we shared, or you just want to have another look, you can still find it all by searching #EduArtsFest on Twitter, looking for #nssfdrama #nssfexpressivearts #nssfcpa #nsandsfc or #nssfc on Twitter and Instagram or find NSSFC Drama on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter to view, celebrate and share the hard work our students have put into the creative curriculum this year, despite all the challenges we have faced, as well as keeping up to date with our future creative

work.

YEAR 7 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

There are now around 50 students in Year 7 who have achieved their Bronze Personal Development Awards - what fantastic news! There are also some students who are well on their way to achieving Silver. Well done, Year 7!

AVALON WALL HANGING

We are delighted with the progress students are making with this. Students have been experimenting with tie dye, applique felt, weaving and embroidery. We hope the tactile wall hanging will help prompt memories for members of the Avalon Group. The Avalon Group is a registered day service for older adults in Northallerton with a range of needs such as dementia and the students are creating this for their new premises. Look out for more updates and the finished article in future editions of the Head of School weekly update.



STUDENT LOCKERS

We would like to inform parents that there will be no locker facilities available at the new site in September for students to use during the school day. Could we please ask that you speak to your son/daughter to ask that they empty out their locker and return the key to the student reception before the end of the term. Thank you for your support with this.

FEEDBACK

We would love to hear your thoughts and feedback on our weekly Head of School update. Is there anything you would like to see as a regular item? How do you prefer to read about our school and student successes? Is Facebook, Twitter or Instagram your preferred method of reading news? We value your opinions so please do send me an email on wilson.a@northallertonschool.org.uk Thank you.