

Head of School's Fortnightly Update 1 October 2021

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

07/10/2021 - Year 11 Progress Evening (virtual)

11/10/2021 - Non-Uniform Day to celebrate World Mental Health Day. All students are invited to come in non-uniform and make a small donation (£1 suggested) to charity.

SIXTH FORM

It has been an exciting start to term in the sixth form, it has been fantastic getting to know each of our new Year 12 students and welcoming our Year 13s onto the Brompton Road site. It is fantastic to see lessons taking part in our brand new classrooms and students utilising our new facilities. Post-16 Open Evening is taking place on Thursday 21st October 2021.

COVID

Following revised advice from Public Health England we have reintroduced face coverings for all year groups for a time limited period of 2 weeks. Students will be expected to wear face coverings in all areas inside the school. We will keep you updated with this.

It is really important that students continue to test twice weekly and that any siblings of students who have tested positive arrange a PCR test.

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 should self isolate until the result is received.

Thank you for your continued support with this which helps to keep our whole community safe.

Should your child need to self isolate because of a positive COVID result, work will be available for them to access via google classroom.

YEAR 11 PROGRESS EVENING

The Year 11 progress evening will take place on Thursday 7th October between 3:30pm and 6pm.

We will be using our SchoolCloud online platform to run the meetings. This software was used in the summer term and we received very positive feedback from both parents and staff. Booking instructions have been sent out via email.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Thirty Year 11 DofE students successfully completed the qualifying expedition section of their bronze award recently. All students performed amazingly well, utilising the skills they developed throughout the award. They acted responsibly, representing themselves and the school impressively, with great maturity and should be commended for this. Well done - these students should be hugely proud of their achievements.

Nine Year 13 students, undertaking their silver award, are in the process of undertaking their three-day qualifying expedition. We will update you on their progress in the next bulletin, but in the meantime, we wish them all the best.

Year 12 DofE - the silver award was launched last week. The application Google Form, found on the Year 12 Google Classroom, is due today (01/10/21) for those students who want to register their interest. A meeting will be held next week for those students who would like to undertake this award.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

We will shortly be recruiting our new Sixth Form Council. This will include House Captains and Arété Student Leaders. All Year 12 students are invited to apply.

FIRST HOUSE CHALLENGE - Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal

After the huge success of last year, where over 100 presents were donated for vulnerable children in the UK, we are running the appeal again.

We are holding a collection of new, unwanted gifts to be given to children in the UK less fortunate than most. By giving a gift to our Christmas Present Appeal you can make a real difference in someone's life at Christmas.

Suggestions for donations include:

- dolls and action figures
- teddy bears
- colouring sets
- games
- stationery
- hair accessories
- gloves, scarves and hats
- books
- toiletries

Students can give their donations to their form tutor and will receive house points for each item donated. The deadline for donations is 22nd October. Thank you for your support with this worthy cause.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OFFER

We are excited to publish our extra-curricular offer for this term. Our aim is to provide well-planned, coherent provision that complements and expands on the 'taught' curriculum.

Links to Sport and Music Extra-Curricular Offer here

[Music](#)

[Sport](#)

YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

This event has been postponed until Thursday 21st October, we are sorry for any inconvenience this has caused.

UNIFORM STANDARDS - Trainers, Hoodies and Sweatshirts

Our school uniform is very important to us. It plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos and values of our school. Our uniform instils a sense of pride, supports positive behaviour and promotes a sense of community. It ensures that all students feel equal and protects them from social pressure to dress in a particular way. It helps the whole school community to get on with our core business of teaching and learning. A detailed uniform list is available on our website. The weather has definitely become more autumnal and we are encouraging all students to wear a thermal layer underneath their school shirt. A warm waterproof coat is also something that will provide protection for students during social times and on their journey to and from school.

Important information to note is that we do not allow students to wear any type of training shoes

unless they have a valid medical note. We do not allow students to wear hoodies/sweatshirts over or under their uniform - such items will be confiscated.

We are very clear in all of our correspondence with parents on our uniform expectations and this information is clearly displayed on our website. No student can be exempt from these expectations. We really appreciate your support in this matter.

FLU VACCINES - YEAR 7-YEAR 11

The flu vaccines took place on Thursday 30th September. There will be a catch up session for anyone who was absent or missed the deadline for consenting. Date to be confirmed.

SIMS PARENT APP/CLASSCHARTS

At the end of last week we rolled out Class Charts invites to all parents and students via the SIMS app. To clarify, we will be continuing to use the SIMS app for:

- Timetable (also available in Class Charts)
- Student PRP information
- Data checking exercises
- Option choices for Y9 and Y11
- Extra-curricular activities sign up (where applicable)

Class Charts will be used for:

- Conduct
- Timetable information
- Homework diaries

Should you be having difficulties logging on to either platform please email lrichardson@arete.uk or gient@arete.uk and we will get back to you with the relevant access information.

READING

At Northallerton School & Sixth Form College, we will be working to assist all students in improving their reading skills and developing their confidence.

All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are expected to bring a reading book to school as part of their essential equipment. Lessons in English and humanities will start with silent, private reading. Teachers of other subjects may also, at times, ask students to take out their books for silent reading. All Year 7s will also have a 15-minute slot each day from 1:00-1:15 dedicated to private reading. All Year 7 and 8 students will take part in the Accelerated Reader (AR) programme. Year 7 and 8 students will have a weekly English lesson dedicated to AR/reading.

During this time, English teachers and our librarian, Mrs Brayshaw, will ensure that all students have reading books and that they are reading appropriate material. We are excited to have our newly refurbished and well-stocked library back in full-time use. Teachers will contact parents if there are any concerns over reading material or students not having books. They will assist in accessing tests, choosing new books and will also track progress over time. Any students with Chromebooks will be able to use them in these lessons to select new titles, read online books and take quizzes though we will, of course, ensure all students have access to the necessary ICT equipment to do this. We will celebrate the best levels of effort, engagement and improvement with a system of small rewards and recognition.

Of course we are aware that some students need additional support with reading. Our SENCO, Mrs Bell, and her team will be ensuring that these students are identified and given additional intervention to enable them to progress more quickly. To assist us in identifying students most in need, all Year 7 students will undertake the New Group Reading Test (NGRT) within the next couple of weeks.

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

National Poetry Day is on Monday October 4th. To celebrate this, all English lessons on this day will have a poetic focus. Look out for regular poetry and creative writing competitions that we promote through the LRC and the English department.