

To: All Parent/Carers

20 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well. Having been back to school for a term now I thought it would be good to send you a brief update. We have had a busy, but great start to the academic year, so as usual I thought I would share some of the highlights and notices moving forward.

1. In the Summer we delivered the first positive Progress 8 score that the school has had in a number of years. Progress 8 is a measure of how far a student has travelled from their start in Year 7 to the end of their GCSE's. Our positive result means that we are ahead of the national average and more importantly means that more of our children received the results that they deserved for their future. Furthermore, our percentage of students who achieved a Grade 5 in both English and Mathematics (58%) made us the 4th highest performing school in Norfolk. Something we are very proud of for everyone's benefit.
2. Both Main School Open Evening and Sixth Form Open Evening were well attended. Applications for main school are already oversubscribed for September and Sixth Form applications appear to be the highest on record for the second year in a row. It is not too late for Year 11 students to apply after Christmas for September 2024, but please see Mr Linnell as soon as possible to discuss options.
3. Feedback from our parent/carers and students is important and like last year, there will be a student and parent/carer questionnaire coming out next half term. We would really welcome your feedback on both the positives and the not so positives about the school, this will help us in planning for the future. Please keep an eye out for this.
4. In reference to uniform, students are typically coming to school appropriately dressed, but just a reminder that we do not allow leggings. We expect students to be in shoes, and we are doing random checks on this. When parent/carers ask me what sort of shoes, I respond with "something smart, that you might wear to a formal interview".
5. Attendance has also improved this year, but can I remind you that students should be in school by 8:30 am as this is the start of lessons. Please could you ensure your child/ward is aware of this and leaves home in plenty of time to ensure they are in school by 8:30 am. If they are later than this, it can lead to a detention.

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6. Already this year we have seen lots of extra-curricular opportunities offered across the school with students enthusiastically engaging in all manner of sports clubs, charitable and community work. So far, these include an RAF sponsored camouflaged learning day for Year 8 students, visits to a local care home and a coffee morning in school for some of the residents. Students in Year 12 all attended a visit to Suffolk University to gain an understanding of routes into higher education. Planning continues for the ski trip in Spring 2024 and an exciting trip to China in October 2024; as well as Art Trips to London for the Sixth Form and most students in Year 7 visiting Taverham Library this term. So, there has been a lot going on with more to come as we head towards 2024.
7. Mr Wilson our Head of Computing is leaving us at Christmas, and we will be sorry to see him go. Mrs Egleton who is the Business Manager for the school will also be leaving, although parents/carers won't necessarily know Mrs Egleton, as she is the 'mortar between the bricks' and will be sorely missed at the school. Mrs Goldspink is leaving to become Head of Year at another school, but Miss Hollis is returning from maternity leave. Miss Butler and Mrs Hart are also starting their maternity leave at the end of this term.
8. Should everything go to plan, on 1 January 2024 we will have joined the Enrich Learning Trust. This should have no noticeable impact on students or parent/carers, but I thought it was worth mentioning.

Finally, on behalf of myself, Trustees and everyone at Taverham High School I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing students back into school on Thursday 4 January 2024 at 8:30 am, don't be late!

Yours faithfully



Dr R Harris
Headteacher