

19 February 2025

Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s)

Behaviour for Learning and Standards Update

Our third half termly 'Pastoral Update' letter will be shared with you later this week. I am writing to you separately with the following key updates so that they do not get lost in the raft of positive updates that we have to share.

The following information is in relation to our drive to further improve standards at the Academy, in conjunction with our core values which encourage our students to be Ready, Respectful and Safe in order that each child may achieve their full potential.

At the beginning of the academic year, student voice raised concerns around the following matters and I am delighted to inform you that in our recent pupil survey 89% of students confirmed that they are pleased with the recent changes that we have introduced to improve the student experience in our toilets and the increased presence for corridor supervision at the changeover of lessons.

Toilet usage and supervision

Staff supervision to support queuing and a clear system as to when students can use the toilets has enabled us to ensure there is always a member of staff present when students are able to access the toilets and allow our site team adequate time to clean them in between this access. This also ensures that missed valuable learning time is kept to a minimum. We have detailed the times students have access to the toilets below. Students who have a medical pass can present this to the teacher within their lesson and use the toilet as necessary.

Year 7	Before School 08:00 - 08:25 AM Break - 11:05 - 11:30 Lunch Time 13:00 -13:30 P1 - 5 Middle ten minutes of each lesson with the exception of P4 (Y7 lunch is in the middle of this lesson) After school 15:00 - 15:15
Year 8	Before School 08:00 - 08:25 AM Break 10:40 - 11:05 Lunch Time 12:30 - 13:00 P1 - 3 and P5 Middle ten minutes of each lesson with the exception of P4 as this directly follows lunch. After school 15:00 - 15:15
Year 9	Before School 08:00 - 08:25 AM Break 11:05 - 11:30 Lunch Time 13:30 - 14:00 P 1 - 4 Middle ten minutes of each lesson with the exception of P5 as this directly follows lunch.
Year 10	Before School 08:00 - 08:25 AM Break 10:40 - 11:05 Lunch Time 12:30 - 13:00 P1 - 3 and P5 Middle ten minutes of each lesson with the exception of P4 as this directly follows lunch.



	After school 15:00 - 15:15
Year 11	<p>Before School 08:00 - 08:25 AM Break 11:05 - 11:30 Lunch Time 13:30 - 14:00 P 1 - 4 Middle ten minutes of each lesson with the exception of P5 as this directly follows lunch.</p>

Since the start of this term we have introduced a system which monitors student usage of the toilets during lesson time through Class Charts. This allows us to review when students leave lessons to do so along with the length of time they are missing from lessons. The data indicates that the vast majority of our students use the toilets during social times to ensure that they do not miss valuable learning time and demonstrate exemplary behaviour when using the bathrooms. They are also respectful and considerate towards fellow students and our cleaning staff, who work extremely hard to maintain high standards of cleanliness and hygiene.

A very small number of students are using the toilets very frequently during lesson time. Of those students who have been highlighted, a member of our Senior Leadership Team has contacted parents / carers of those students by phone in the last week in order to ensure that we work together to address these issues.

Changeover of lesson

We have a large student body and when students change lessons, our corridors become understandably busy. To support with a swift and smooth transition, all non-teaching members of our staff team now have duty points at the changeover of lesson to supervise student movement and all teaching staff meet and greet their students in their classroom doorways.

Uniform and Equipment Checks

Just before Christmas, we added a section to our 'Half term 2 Pastoral Update' to ask for your support in ensuring that your child comes to school fully prepared and in full school uniform. Our uniform is designed to promote equality and a positive learning environment. It is designed to enable our students to safely carry out the day to day activities of each lesson, create a sense of school spirit and community, whilst also reducing peer pressure and simplifying dressing routines. In order to ensure our uniform is good value for money and accessible for all, we do not insist on students having to wear skirts or trousers with a logo. We do request that the school skirt is knee length and that it and/or trousers are not made from a stretchy/lycra material. Students must also wear plain black school shoes not trainers.

Upon arrival to school, to enable our students to be prepared for a positive start to the day, students all pass through a standards checks each morning with their Senior Pastoral Manager and their Senior Leadership Team year link. Any student who does not have the correct uniform or equipment will be provided with what they need for the day. We will then contact you if your child is missing or wearing an item which does not conform with our policy. Just after Christmas, we were delighted that nearly all of our students were in full school uniform and had all their equipment. We have noticed in the last two weeks that we are having to lend more skirts and shoes than we normally do. If you require support, please get in touch with your Senior Pastoral Manager. We would also politely request that you do not allow your child to wear false eyelashes, false nails or earrings larger than a small stud. We are sensitive to some young people's self-consciousness and do not object to students wearing minimal make-up from Year 9-11 but do not allow heavy make-up. We were made aware via our provider's social media that our uniform provider is changing hands. Our central trust team is currently working with the company and when they have the details will share this with you in due course. We are assured that the current company will honour any current orders.

Be here, be on time and be the best we can be

We have explained to students in the last two weeks' assemblies that our school guidelines reflect that of the Areté Learning Trust and replicate real life expectations for when our students commence the next stages in their education and as they move into the world of work. Fulfilling our expectations enables them to build life skills which prepares them for life in Modern Britain. The importance of maintaining positive habits, such as maintaining excellent attendance and punctuality to school and lessons, along with being the best they can be in each lesson, enables each child to fulfil or even exceed their potential and aspirations. We have reduced late arrival to the school from around 240 students a day in September to around 20. We again politely request your support in ensuring your child arrives at school on time.

Class changes

As we approach the halfway stage for this academic year, we have reviewed our pastoral and academic data. Following this review, some students' classes will change after the February half term. Class changes happen regularly to support student's progress and attainment regularly. If your child is changing a group, you will receive a separate notification via Class Charts from their Senior Pastoral Manager.

Working together

Many thanks for your continued support, I look forward to further strengthening the working relationship between academy staff and parents collectively, in order that we can drive standards, to ensure that every student achieves their full potential at Nunthorpe Academy.

On that note, since we relaunched our parent/carer voice some weeks ago, only three parents/carers have taken the time to complete our survey. In order to enable us to consider parent/carer feedback for our future planning I have kept this questionnaire open until the PD Day on Thursday 20th February. I will be analysing any additional contributions in the break.

We are aware that some of our parents/carers access unofficial social media to ask questions or pose queries. As a school, we do not have access to these forums, which in turn means we are unable to support you in resolving matters. Should you have a concern or query, please contact school directly so the most appropriate person can assist you. It would also be wonderful to see as many parents/carers as possible following our official social media channels to see us celebrate and share our successes including students who win awards, represent us in school and our wider community along with key updates for upcoming events and other communications which we share.

Please look out for our Half Term 3 Pastoral Update later this week.

Yours sincerely



Jane Darbyshire
Trust Vice Principal