



# Head Teacher Newsletter

## October 2021

### Half Term One

We have had an excellent start to the term and the students have settled very well into the daily routines of school. We have also enjoyed having parents back into school for parents evenings, four of which were hosted in the first few weeks of the term. They have all been very well attended. We hope that we can continue to hold face to face events for the remainder of the academic year and beyond. One of the highlights of this term has been the physical transformation of each learning corridor. All faculties are developing their displays in conjunction with our new curriculum plans and hopefully you have seen some excellent examples of these when in school for the above events.

Our Year 11 students are preparing for their GCSE examinations in May and June and have returned to their courses with great enthusiasm and dedication. They are currently attending all intervention sessions, either during tutor time or after school, to ensure they are on target or above in each subject. We have also had Super Learning Days for some courses and further are planned before Christmas. Students will extend their skills, knowledge and understanding over a half or full day in a particular subject area. This has a really positive impact on a student's performance and boosts the chances of a positive grade.

Covid-19 is still with us and we have had both staff and student absences during the half term. We are monitoring the situation very closely as we move towards the more challenging winter months for both the school and NHS. We are asking all parents and students to continue with twice weekly testing using lateral flow tests, to continue the fight against Covid. Following the vaccinations of 12-15 year old students, the Public Health Team have given further information regarding any of these students who didn't get their vaccine last month. In addition to receiving a second offer for the vaccine by the Public Health Team at school, parents and carers will also be given another option to support their child to be vaccinated by booking an appointment at a Mass Vaccination centre. These are either the Nightingale hospital in Sunderland or the Centre for Life in Newcastle. Information will be shared around this offer in due course, but we understand this will be available after half term, although subject to change.

We have received the first 30 CO2 monitors to check on restricted air flow within the building. These have been issued by the DFE to all state schools to assist with air flow and reduce transmission rates. Our monitors will be fitted during half term.

Our school roll has now reached over 1,000 students and with a potential full Year 7 group choosing our school in September 2022, this will mean we are almost full (1,105 capacity). This is a fantastic achievement for our school and we are really proud to serve the local communities of South Tyneside. We anticipate that our school will be full by 2022/23.

We have continued to invest in our Google for Education programme and the school is in a much stronger position with ICT. We have some essential work which needs to be carried out in the coming weeks, but this will enable our ICT development to significantly increase in the next few years. The school is quickly catching up with ICT provision and we aim to ensure this is fit for the 21st century and enables all students to have access to excellent equipment and resources, within and outside of school.

We are currently looking at improving our ICT curriculum capacity in all faculty areas and we will be communicating with parents later this year with further information about our plans.

All students have been issued with usernames and passwords to set up their Google for Education accounts and instructions for parents to access SmartParent have also been sent home. SmartParent allows parents to keep a check on their child's homework, attendance and timetable. Over the next half term we shall be moving away from SatchelOne (Show My Homework) and will communicate all home learning through Google Classroom. Instructions as to how to use Google Classroom and SmartParent can be found on the school website. We will be shortly introducing another App for parents called "Class Charts" which should be available next term. This will give parents real time updates on positive behaviour in class and rewards.

It has been fantastic to see our after school provision in full operation again and attendance is high in the many clubs we have on offer. All faculties are offering clubs and practices, so all students are catered for in our programme. Please encourage your child to come along and join in the fun.

The final week of each half term is always a designated wellbeing week. These weeks have been introduced to all staff in an effort to support their wellbeing and reduce teacher workload at various pressure points in the year. Meetings and some clubs and practices are put on hold to support some valuable family time for staff. Our intervention programmes for Year 11 students, however, will continue. The school has achieved a healthy schools award and staff wellbeing is absolutely essential to our recruitment and retention process.

Have an excellent half term holiday.

Mr Noble  
Head Teacher

### **Mask Wearing in Communal Areas and Corridors**

Due to the sharp increase in Covid-19 cases in the UK and the local area, we are advising that masks should be worn in our communal areas (breakouts) and in corridors after half term. We also advise that our students should be wearing a mask on any method of public transport. Although no decision has been made by our Public Health South Tyneside Team, we can see from the current data that cases are rising significantly and particularly with the 0-5 and 12-19 age groups. Wearing a mask should help reduce the spread of the disease at a particularly worrying time and stop the disease reaching households and families, where more vulnerable people may be at risk. Our pastoral teams will be available at all times to hand out masks for students, but we would prefer that students bring their own permanent masks to reduce litter and reduce the amount of masks we provide. Thank you for your cooperation and continued support in this matter.

### **Poppy Appeal 2021**

Cadets from Boldon School Combined Cadet Force (Royal Navy Unit) will be visiting tutor bases during tutor time Monday 1 November to Friday 5 November should anyone from our school community wish to donate to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2021.

Every poppy makes a difference to the lives of our Armed Forces community.



Royal British Legion collectors have been at the heart of the Poppy Appeal for 100 years. As Covid-19 restrictions ease, they are back in local communities to raise vital funds for the Armed Forces community.

Remembrance has been part of the fabric of our shared history, and today it continues to unite people across all backgrounds and generations. 100 years on, your support is as vital as ever as the impact of Covid-19 continues to leave some people we support in urgent need of our help. Every person, every donation, and every poppy counts.

### Poppy Appeal 2021 - Key dates

Here are some key dates for this year's Poppy Appeal and Remembrance period:

- National Poppy Appeal launch - Thursday 28 October
- Armistice Day - Thursday 11 November
- Festival of Remembrance - Saturday 13 November
- Remembrance Sunday - Sunday 14 November

### Powburn Dates



The dates for Powburn visits this academic year are below:

13-15 November 2021	£45
4-6 March 2022	£50
6-8 May 2022	£50

Anyone interested please see Miss Hanson at school

### The Queen's Platinum Jubilee - Holiday

We had planned to have our additional day's holiday for the Queen's platinum jubilee on **Friday 27 May 2022**. However, we have been notified that the date will be used for external examinations and we have reluctantly had to cancel the date along with all the other secondary schools within the Local Authority. We will now take **Friday 8 April 2022** as our Queen's Jubilee day. Our last date before the Easter holidays will therefore be Thursday 7 April 2022. Sorry if this has caused any inconvenience to any of our families.

### Jewellery and Piercings

The only jewellery allowed in school is 1 pair of ear studs and a watch. No other earrings including spacers or expanders are allowed. The wearing of any chin/nose/lip/tongue rings or studs or visible body piercings is strictly prohibited and students will be housed in the Behaviour Support Centre until they are removed.

### Scholars Bus Service and Nexus Bus Services



We have recently had a few issues on our scholars service and to a lesser extent on the local services, namely the number 50 and 5 bus services. Our students are all aware that they need to travel to school in an impeccable manner each day, particularly when cycling, walking or getting a bus service to school. If students are wearing our uniform, then they must behave in an appropriate

manner. Students who cannot behave on our scholars bus service will be banned from the bus and spend time in our Behaviour Support Centre as this will not be tolerated. The bus service we operate is a privilege and not a right for all students.

All buses have CCTV installed on them and NEXUS who run these services, will regularly visit school to identify any students displaying poor behaviour whilst on their buses. Our staff are on duty every evening to ensure an orderly passage onto the scholars bus and we have recently extended our supervision to the stone bus stop opposite the new estate for the number 5 and 50 services respectively. All incidents of poor behaviour will lead to students being banned temporarily or permanently from the bus services.

As these are public services, I would also ask parents to speak to their children regarding their behaviour and conduct on the bus, as we will contact them immediately if any behaviour involving their children is identified. We have spoken to all students in assembly and explained our stance with public transport.

Please also note the scholars 542 homeward journey has changed slightly to improve punctuality to the following service. It will be more efficient for the students and a quicker journey home. This will commence from Monday 1 November 2021.

- **14:50 Departs BOLDON SCHOOL** New Road, Henley Way, Abingdon Way, Hedworth Lane, A19 Slip Road, A19, Lindisfarne Roundabout
- **15:03 LEAM LANE STOP** John Reid Road
- **15:06 CREMATORIUM**, John Reid Road, Chesterton Road, Sheridan Road, Galsworthy Road
- **15:13 BIDDICK HALL ESTATE** Galsworthy Road, Nevinson Avenue, South Shields School Stop
- **15:17 Arrives NEVINSON AVENUE SOUTH SHIELDS SCHOOL STOP**

### Attendance and Rewards

We have had a good start to the academic year regarding attendance. We have handed out certificates for the half term to students with 100% attendance and they have been given a small reward. Moving forward we are introducing bigger rewards across all year groups during the academic year. Students track their own attendance with their tutors and have a good awareness of their responsibility to attend school regularly. A polite reminder to contact school if your child is too unwell to attend. Thank you for your ongoing support in this matter.

### Chess Club

Tuesdays 14:45 - 15:45  
Room HU1

Playing chess provides students with a number of benefits.

- Improved concentration, memory, and problem solving.
- Increased creativity.
- Teaches planning and foresight.



All ability levels are welcome. Please see Mr Healer for further information.

### Educational Visits

The North-East of England Digital Magazine is a seasonal magazine (ezine) produced to promote museums and attractions to schools. Teachers can access the latest events, online workshops and new ideas, the majority of which have been provided by the museums/attractions, so that they can plan day and residential school trips. If additionally passed on by the schools to parents, the ezines also inform parents of the educational and fun activities available for their children.

The new East of England online magazine is part of a series of 10 regional ezines and if you want to know what is happening in other areas, please visit our website

<https://www.educationalvisitsuk.com/ezines/> This also includes information about what is happening in the school holidays.

We have also had the following visits take place this term - well done to all students and staff involved.

- Two Year 9 students took part in the Borough wide, STC's Youth Parliament, Domestic Violence event. The representatives were mature and handled the topic very well.
- Twenty of our Year 8 students sent a letter to Kate Osborne MP, to share their views on climate change. The letters were meaningful and very well informed. Boldon is taking part in Climate change month in November.
- Our Year 11 students went to South Tyneside College to complete two taster sessions in subjects they had chosen based on their future career paths. A great day was had by all.

### **Zoolab**



Zoolab visited all of our Year 7 students and, during this interactive session, they learnt about the classification of different animals. Students held, stroked, petted and discussed the characteristics of rats, millipedes, Giant African Land Snails, a Royal Python snake, to name just a few. It was great fun and we can't wait to see them back next year!



### **Parent Governor Vacancies**

Opportunities have become available for parents to join our Governing Body. Election process will begin on Monday 1 November 2021 and letters will be sent home after half term.

## The Cultural Spring

Great response to our Autumn programme!

First of all, we'd like to thank you for the lovely feedback we've had about our autumn programme of activity. We've had nothing but positive comments, and many of our workshops and sessions are – and have been - fully booked. It's our most wide ranging programme we've put together so far and we hope there's something for everyone. It's also been lovely to see people in person again! The workshops and sessions are free to attend, but are delivered on a 'Pay what you feel model' – all donations go back into the programme so we can offer more opportunities to local residents.



Our ongoing workshops and sessions include:

- Awesome Artists (online – Thursdays to December 9) Get inspiration from the achievements of artists past and present – all of whom have a connection to the region. (One of artist Pui Lee's brilliant sessions is pictured above);
- Felt Nowt Comedy (two workshops on Thursdays November 4 and 11). Join the Felt Nowt team at Clegwell and Hartleyburn Community Centre to develop your comedy writing skills – age restrictions apply.
- A Go and See visit to 17Nineteen which is situated within the beautiful Holy Trinity Church in Sunderland's East End. The visit is on Saturday, November 6 (10.30am to 3pm). £5 per person, more info here <http://theculturalspring.org.uk/go-and-see/>

We also have craft pack activities in the programme. These are designed for people to complete at home, with guidance and support from local artists. Our packs have been hugely popular, but we do have a small number of calligraphy, textile and paper craft packs still available.

Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis and priority will be given to those living in Sunderland or South Tyneside. Craft packs will only be available for people not engaged in other activities and are mainly home-based.

For more information about our craft packs and workshops, or to book a place, go to <http://theculturalspring.org.uk/workshops/>

You can find our brochure here <https://tinyurl.com/harbtzk6>

If you are working with anyone who you feel would benefit from a craft pack please let us know by emailing us at [info@theculturalspring.org.uk](mailto:info@theculturalspring.org.uk) or by phoning 07469 030 256. We have a limited number of each pack style and these will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

## Extra Curricular Activities

Please see below an updated schedule of extra curricular activities - we encourage students to get involved as often as possible.



Week commencing  
2nd Nov 2021  
Tuesday



Year Group	Club	Room	Teacher
All	Homework Club	Library	
7, 8, 9	STEM Club	SC1	Mr Dodds, Mr Todd, Mrs Fitzgerald
7 & 8	Book Club	EN7	Miss Boddy
7 & 8	Esports Gaming Competition	IT2	Mr Mordey, Mrs Pennick
7 & 8	Maths Games	Ma6	Mrs Trueman
7	Football	PE	Mr Palmer
8	Cooking Club	TF1	Mrs Barron
8 & 9	Football	PE	Mr Crooks, Mr Taylor
8 & 9	School Newspaper	EN1	Mrs Tate & Miss Thompson
9	Lego Robotics	IT3	Mr Joplin & Mrs Jacobson
All	7 Up Club Practical Science Club	SC3	, Various
All	Chess Club	HU1	Mr Healer
All	Fitness Suite	PE	Mr Spruce
All	Badminton & Table Tennis	PE	Mr Kear
All	Dance	PE	External Coach
All	Girls Football	PE	Mr Soulsby
All Application Only	Sea Cadets	Break out area	Mrs Moir, Miss Herring, Miss Prince, Mrs Moore
11	7 Up Club History	HU3	Mrs Anderson
11	Geog Intervention	HU6	Mr Wallace
11	History Intervention	HU6	Miss Mercer
11	MFL Intervention	HU10	Miss Tomlinson
11	History Revision Club	HU7	Mr Davey
11	MFL Intervention	HU7	Mr Piecuch
11	Geog Intervention	HU5	Mr Grant
11	Spanish Club (Invite only)	Hu1	Mr Hanna
11	7 Up Club English	EN8 & EN2	Mrs Harvey-Allison & Miss Melia

Year Group	Club	Room	Teacher
All	Homework Club	Library	
All	Baldon's Got Talent	MU1	Mr Leckie
All	Science Club	Sc1	Various
7, 8 & 9	Netball	PE	Mrs Miller
7 - 10	Geog Film Club	HU4	Miss Lodge
7 & 8	Young Authors	EN9	Miss Shotton
7 & 8	Textiles Craft Club	AR2	Miss Cairns
9	Sports Journalism	EN1	Mr Ahmed
10	Law Club	EN4	Miss Champion
10	Child Development & H&S Raising the Bar	TG1	Miss Martin
All	MMA	PE	External Coach
All	Pool Activities	PE	Mr Turner
All	Trampolining	PE	Mrs Baty
All	Fitness Suite	PE	Mr Soulsby
10	Engineering Raising the Bar	TG1	Miss <u>Hawronskyj</u>
10	Engineering Raising the Bar	TR2	Mr Hodgson
11	Maths Intervention	Various Rms	Various

**Thursday**

Year Group	Club	Room	Teacher
All	Homework Club	Library	
9, 10, 11	Esports Gaming competition	IT2	Mr Mordey Mrs K Pennick
All	Boys Rugby	PE	Mr Palmer Mr Spruce
All	Girls Rugby	PE	Mr Taylor
All	Cheerleading	PE	Miss Lawton
All	Clubbercise	PE	External Coach & Mrs Baty
All	Fitness Suite	PE	Mrs Legg
All	Rock School	MU1	Mr Leckie
8 & 10	7 up club Art Club	AR1&2	Mrs McIvor-Cross & Miss Cairns
Invited 9&10	Duke of Edinburgh	PE	Mr Kear & Mrs Miller
11	Year 11 Science Intervention	Various Rms	Various