



## Head Teacher Newsletter February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are at the end of another half term and the speed of school life continues at a pace. Our Year 11 students have seven school weeks left before the start of their GCSE examinations and they are working tirelessly to improve their performance and give their best efforts during the exam season.

The term has been interrupted by the National Union of Education's strike action and we apologise that we cannot have all of our students in school when this happens. At present, we can only have two year groups in school, due to restrictions concerning cover, supply and staffing levels. Our plan for the next three days of strike action are as follows:

- Tuesday 28 February 2023 - Year 11 and Year 7 in school. (remote learning - Years 8, 9 and 10)
- Wednesday 15 March and Thursday 16 March 2023 - Year 11 and Year 10 in school - GCSE / BTEC lessons. (remote learning - Years 7, 8 and 9)

We wanted to give all Year 7 parents at least one month's notice regarding the final potential strike days in March, so adequate arrangements can be made to supervise your children. If the strike action is cancelled, as ongoing talks between the union and the government are planned, then we will notify parents as soon as possible. Students who are working from home will again be sent remote work to complete through Google classroom. Parents can request paper copies of work if required. A school meal can once again be provided at lunchtime for any students wishing to have one. Can parents let us know via our email service if they wish to come into school during their normal lunch half hour.

For the remainder of the term, our focus will be on general school standards and expectations, particularly with our tutorial lessons. Our expectations are always aimed at outstanding, as this ensures continuous improvement and good standards. We will be checking tutor groups and assemblies on a daily basis to ensure all students are in full school uniform and have the relevant equipment including a school bag. We are monitoring punctuality to lessons and all students should aim to have excellent attendance at 96% or above.

On the subject of mobile phones and headphones, we appreciate that students have phones in school but they must be switched off and all headphones and devices should always be inside bags. The only exception to this are Year 11 students who are able to use their phones in school for revision purposes. Any student carrying a mobile phone around school will have it confiscated and it will be returned to them at the end of the school day. If this happens again, parents will be requested to pick up the phone from reception and this will continue every time there is an incident.

Students need to concentrate on their studies in school and we want them to talk and engage with their friends. Please ensure your child is aware of this and understands the consequences if they continually break our school rule concerning phones and headphones.

Mr Ian Noble  
Head Teacher

## Staff Training Days for 2022/23

- Friday 17 March 2023 - Staff training day

## Arrangements for GCSEs 2023

Please find below, the general timetable for the summer exams – individual timetables will follow in due course. This is currently a draft programme and subject to change – all students are being asked to keep Wednesday 28 June free as a Contingency Day.



Date	Time	Length	Qual	Subject
Tuesday 25 April	9am	1 hr 55	FS	Functional skills Mathematics Level 1
Wednesday 26 April	9am	1 hr	FS	Functional skills English Level 2 (Reading)
Thursday 27 April	9am	1 hr	FS	Functional skills English Level 2 (Writing)
TBA in 1* 2 wks May	N/A		GCSE	French speaking
Tuesday 2 May	All day		GCSE	Art
Wednesday 3 May	All day		GCSE	Art
Thursday 4 May	All day		GCSE	Photography and Textiles
Friday 5 May	All day		GCSE	Photography and Textiles
Monday 15 May	9am	1 hr 45	GCSE	Religious Studies paper 1
Tuesday 16 May	9am	1 hr 10/1 hr 45	GCSE	Biology paper 1 combined and Separate
Wednesday 17 May	9am	1 hr 45	GCSE	English Literature paper 1
Thursday 18 May	9am	2 hrs	GCSE	History paper 1
Friday 19 May	9am	1 hr 30	GCSE	Mathematics paper 1 (non calc)
Friday 19 May	1pm	1 hr 30	GCSE	Computer Science paper 1
Monday 22 May	9am	1 hr 10/1 hr 45	GCSE	Chemistry paper 1 combined and separate
Monday 22 May	1pm	1 hr 30	GCSE	Geography paper 1
Tuesday 23 May	9am	1 hr 20/1 hr 45	GCSE	French paper 1 and 3
Tuesday 23 May	1pm	1 hr 45	GCSE	Religious Studies paper 2
Wednesday 24 May	9am	2 hrs 15	GCSE	English Literature paper 2
Thursday 25 May	9am	1 hr 10/1 hr 45	GCSE	Physics paper 1 combined and separate
Thursday 25 May	1pm	1 hr 30	GCSE	Computer Science paper 2
Half Term				
Monday 5 June	9am	1 hr 45	GCSE	English Language paper 1
Monday 5 June	1pm	1 hr/1 hr 15	GCSE	French paper 4
Wednesday 7 June	9am	1 hr 30	GCSE	Mathematics paper 2 (calc)
Wednesday 7 June	1pm	2 hrs	GCSE	History paper 2
Thursday 8 June	9am	1 hr 45	L2Cert	Further Mathematics paper 1
Friday 9 June	9am	1 hr 30	GCSE	Geography paper 2
Friday 9 June	1pm	1 hr 10/1 hr 45	GCSE	Biology paper 2 combined and separate
Monday 12 June	9am	1 hr 45	GCSE	English Language paper 2
Tuesday 13 June	9am	1 hr 10/1 hr 45	GCSE	Chemistry paper 2 combined and separate
Wednesday 14 June	9am	1 hr 30	GCSE	Mathematics paper 3 (calc)
Friday 16 June	9am	1 hr 10/1 hr 45	GCSE	Physics paper 2 combined and separate
Friday 16 June	1pm	1 hr 15	GCSE	Geography paper 3
Monday 19 June	9am	2 hrs	GCSE	Design and Technology
Wednesday 21 June	9am	1 hr 30	Voc	Hospitality and Catering (Yr 11 resits)
Wednesday 21 June	1pm	1 hr 45	L2Cert	Further Mathematics paper 2
Thursday 22 June	9am	1 hr 15	GCSE	Retail Business
Wednesday 28 June Contingency Day (All students to keep this day free)				

## Careers – Years 10 and 11

You have now reached the stage in your education that you are planning for your future and for some this may seem a little daunting. To assist with this, you can attend a "careers drop-in" in TG2, on the following dates from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

- 14 February 2023
- 28 February 2023
- 22 March 2023
- 29 March 2023

You can also use your school Unifrog account to help you with your planning. There are sections and tools to help you to:

- Keep track of work experience placements
- Explore career ideas
- Record what you have done
- Search for opportunities
- Create CVs, and letters of application



If you are having problems logging into your Unifrog account, please speak to Mrs Moir in school.

### Year 11 Careers Event – 9 March 2023

We would like to invite Year 11 parents and carers to join their child at our careers event in school, from 3.30pm to 4.30pm on Thursday 9 March 2023.

The aim of this event is to provide students with an employer / educator enriched experience which raises awareness of good career pathways and acts as a catalyst for students to make the informed decisions needed to reach their full potential. Key to this will be students having the opportunity to discuss and discover more about their potential choices and future journey on to a good career path.

To help students to broaden their employment network, we have secured 30+ employers with live apprenticeship vacancies for the event. You will also be able to discuss further education with representatives from local colleges and support your child as they move onto the next phase of their education.

Please note that car-parking is limited on the school site, if you are able to travel by other means, this will help to avoid the congestion. If you would like to attend the event, please ask your child to collect a booking form from Mrs Moir.

### Time Travel History – Virtual Reality Tour of WWI Trenches

Students studying GCSE history immersed themselves in the trenches of WWI via the wonder of virtual reality. The opportunity to handle props, including a deactivated Royal Enfield rifle, completed the experience.



### Arbeia Visit – Year 7 Rewards Trip

Year 7 students who had worked hard in history class, were rewarded with a visit to the Roman Fort of Arbeia in South Shields. Students undertook a guided tour of the site, visited the museum, and felt the weight of replica helmets, shields and armour.



### Chess Club

Chess Club continues to go from strength to strength with an ever increasing number of students regularly attending. The trophy, and medals, for the 2022 Boldon School tournament were presented by Mr Noble. Congratulations to all involved.

1st = Nathan McKenzie

2nd = Jack Davidson

3rd – Elijah Thornton



### Planned Road Works – New Road, Boldon

South Tyneside Council intend to carry out essential carriageway resurfacing work on New Road either side of the pedestrian crossing near the school. The work will begin on Wednesday 22 February 2023 for a period of 3 days from 9.00am to 5.00pm with full road closures. Access to the community centre will be maintained.

## Bike thefts



Over the last 6 months, an organised gang has been targeting bikes in schools around South Tyneside and Sunderland. It appears that they are riding to schools towards the end of the school day, spotting good quality, newer bikes and stealing them. These thieves are well prepared with very strong bolt cutters, capable of cutting through high quality padlocks and bike locks and are well organised. They know which bikes they are targeting.

We have been working with the police to identify these thieves and also try and protect the students' property whilst on site. Two of our single gates have now been closed permanently and our main exit / entrance from the yard is closed as soon as the majority of students have left the school at 3.25pm. Staff are on duty in the yard until these gates are locked. Students are now bringing their cycles through school to exit via the main entrance.

If parents, students or local residents see anyone acting suspiciously outside the school, particularly if they are riding smaller or older bikes, we would encourage them to contact the police and ourselves as soon as possible. We are currently working with MITIE to investigate the possibility of installing new, lockable bike racks away from the school fence to increase security and to reduce this risk in the future.

## Activities Week 2023

We are thrilled to bring Activities Week back for 2023! The students have missed this experience due to the Covid years but we are pleased to offer this again to our Key Stage 3 students in Years 7,8 and 9. All students will be involved in an activity of their choice over the full week- starting Monday 26 June. There are a range of activities to choose from where students can remain in school or explore new places. Over the years this has been a fantastic opportunity to try new things, meet new friends and work alongside different staff.

Students will receive an Activities Week booklet to bring home after half term to discuss what activity they would like to participate in, a copy will also be emailed to you. The activities have a range of prices and can be paid in instalments. We fully appreciate the cost of living crisis and have taken this into full consideration when compiling the offers in the booklet. As you can appreciate, resources and transport costs are at an all-time high, however staff have worked hard to make the experiences as varied and memorable at the lowest cost.

Please return all tear off slips to the main school office by Friday 3 March 2023. This should state a 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice.



## **If You Really Knew Me**

After half term all Year 7's will be involved in a Performing Arts Based Project named 'If you really knew me' with a Circus Artist and her team. Students will explore mental health, emotions, feelings and be able to express themselves through the medium of Circus skills.

Students will be off timetable for part of the week working with Hannah Thompson from Circmotif and her team. The program has been designed specifically for Boldon School and some students have already had an input into this.

There will be a showcase of students work and experiences and we invite parents and careers to attend. All students will have the opportunity to complete a presentation on stage about a particular part of the event. We would very much hope to see you there, refreshments will be available.

## **Lost Property**

We have a selection of lost property in school, including two bikes. If you are missing anything please check with reception, you will need to give a detailed description of the item. Anything not claimed by Friday 10 March 2023 will be donated to charity.

## **Class Charts**

Thank you to all parents and carers who have activated their Class Charts account. This app gives you real time information about any positive points or negative referrals that your child has each day. Since October half term we have been using Class Charts to inform parents and carers of any detentions incurred by pupils.



Please ensure you have the Class Charts Parent app downloaded, or log in regularly to see your child's progress. This will enable you to hold really meaningful conversations with your child about their performance in school.

If you were unable to attend our drop in session in November and still need your access code please contact school via email on [info@boldonschool.org.uk](mailto:info@boldonschool.org.uk) and we will send this to you.

## **Standards, Behaviour and Attendance**

### **Uniform**

As you are aware, we have the highest of standards at Boldon School and we are rightly proud of the vast majority of students who meet and surpass these. There are, however, a few students in each year group who require reminders as to our expectations. Pastoral staff would appreciate parents checking that your child is prepared for school. A simple checklist can be found below:

1. School uniform- trousers/ skirt, polo shirt, logo'd jumper- No leggings
2. Polishable shoes- students who are not wearing shoes shall be challenged and exemptions must be supported by a medical note shared with the year lead
3. No jewellery. Students are only allowed a small pair of stud earrings and a watch- no bracelets, necklaces, rings, large earrings
4. Minimal make-up
5. No false eyelashes/ nails
6. Students must be prepared for learning with a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and timetable.

Students who do not follow these rules shall be isolated from the school population until full school uniform can be brought into the school or offending jewellery/ make-up/ eyelashes/ nails are removed. If any parents require support with any aspect of their child's school uniform, please contact the year lead in utmost confidence. We are fully aware that times are tough financially for some families and we shall support you to ensure your child is prepared in any way we can with care, subtlety and confidentiality.

### **Behaviour**

The vast majority of students at Boldon School make good decisions every day and make good progress in their learning, social skills, sports, clubs etc. However, there are times when we all make mistakes and choose the wrong option. The behaviour policy at Boldon School can be found on the school website. All we ask of students is to follow any reasonable request made of them. Students who struggle with this shall be placed on school report, detention or the BSC depending on the severity of any infringement. On the rare occasion that students refuse to attend the BSC parents shall be contacted to discuss this choice with their child.

All behaviours are shared with parents live through the Class Charts App which can be downloaded on to phones, tablets, computers etc and this gives parents and students a real time overview of their behaviour and timetable. In the first half of this academic year we can see that over 370 000 praise points have been issued to students and only just over 47 000 negative points. Congratulations to Year 7 who have achieved over 100,000 praise points. The break down for year groups can be seen below;

<b>Year group</b>	<b>Positive points</b>	<b>Negative points</b>
7	103093	8323
8	82446	14384
9	75817	11390
10	60070	8426
11	49094	5097
All	370520	47620

## Timekeeping and Attendance

School starts at 8.45am sharp. At Boldon School we do not have any bells and we expect students to be in class and ready to learn at this time. The main gates are closed at 8.45am and any students who are late have to enter the building by the front entrance. Students who regularly come to school late shall be issued with a late detention for 30 minutes on the same day. Parents shall be informed of this through the Class Charts App.

It is vital that students are on time to school so that they can access their learning and are not at a disadvantage and making less than outstanding progress during lesson 1. Support from parents and guardians in ensuring students are on time and ready for learning, is vital to ensure students are successful.



School attendance is currently below where we would like it to be.

We had a difficult end to last year with a wave of general sickness affecting our students but we now seem to be through the worst of this and with the days getting lighter and longer, we are confident that we can make significant improvements in our attendance overall. Currently our attendance stands at:

Year 7	92.4%
Year 8	89.8%
Year 9	89.0%
Year 10	88.0%
Year 11	89.9%
Overall	89.8%

Students are supported with any maladies or feeling unwell in school, however, parents need to support us by building resilience in their children. We all have to put up with some discomfort in our adult lives be this a gentle headache, pulled muscle, feeling slightly unwell. Students are supported in Boldon School through our first aiders however there is nothing we can do with these general, low level discomforts and any student who is staying off with minor ailments is affecting their ability to fulfil their potential. If parents could discuss the importance of attending and staying in school in terms of students' attainment, development of life skills and resilience then we can build our attendance back to where it has always been.



Band	Attendance Band Descriptions
1	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>98-100% Attendance - Outstanding Attendance</b></p> <p>Congratulations your attendance is outstanding. Your attendance is well above the national average. (95.1%) You are giving yourself the best possible chance to succeed in school and beyond school. You will be entered for a wide range of school rewards from achievement points, prom invitation, trips, rewards and prizes.</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>95.1 – 97.9% - Good Attendance</b></p> <p>Your attendance is just above the National Average for all students. (95.1) You will be entered for a range of school rewards from achievement points, prom invitation, trips, rewards and prizes, but moving to category 1 will help you even further. By achieving band 1, you ensure that you are giving yourself the best possible chance to be successful at Boldon school.</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>90.0 – 95 % - Your attendance requires improvement</b></p> <p>Your attendance is below the National average of 95.1%. You are likely to fall behind with studies in your subjects and be at least 1 grade below your target grade. You will not be entered into any school half term reward day or prize draw and have limited opportunities with activities week choices. You will not receive an invite to the school prom.</p>
4	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Below 90% - Your attendance is inadequate</b></p> <p>You are classed as a persistent absence student – this will have a very negative effect on your achievement and progress within school. You are likely to be at least 2 grades below your target grade. You will not be entered into any school half term reward day or prize draw and have limited opportunities with activities week choices. You will not receive an invite to the school prom.</p>

# KATE OSBORNE MP'S COST OF LIVING ROADSHOW



## SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

**10AM TO 12PM – BOLDON CA,  
NEW ROAD, BOLDON COLLIERY, NE35 9DZ**

SCAN THIS  
CODE TO  
REGISTER  
TO ATTEND



**Need some help and advice  
about an issue or problem  
you may be having?**

Come along and speak to Kate or one of the  
advice organisations that will be at this roadshow.

ANY QUERIES OR PROBLEMS WITH REGISTRATION, PLEASE EMAIL  
[KATE.OSBORNE.MP@PARLIAMENT.UK](mailto:kate.osborne.mp@parliament.uk) OR PHONE 0191 466 1509

KATE OSBORNE MP [KATE-OSBORNE.CO.UK](http://kate-osborne.co.uk)

**KATE OSBORNE MP PROUDLY REPRESENTING...**

Bede / Boldon Colliery / Cleadon & East Boldon / Fellgate & Hedworth / Hebburn North  
Hebburn South / Monkton / Primrose / Pelaw & Heworth / Wardley & Leam Lane



South  
Tyneside



South Tyneside Council



**ACTS**  
age concern



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

\*Signposting advice only

**Boldon  
foodbank**

**Boldon  
Councillors**

