

4 September 2019

Dear parents/carers

Welcome back to another exciting year. First let me begin with congratulations to all the students who received their GCSE qualifications in August. Yet again as an academy we were delighted with the achievements of all our young people. For the fifth year running students and staff have achieved another set of fantastic GCSE results.

We are delighted to report that **86%** of students achieved a grade 4 or above in both GCSE English and maths. This year, all headline figures continue to be very high, reflecting the great student and teacher commitment. A superb **89%** of students passed English at a grade 4 or above. Maths results were also outstanding with **91%** attaining a grade 4 or above, the same as 2018 when the department was named in the top 2% nationally for progress.

Every Year 11 student has achieved personal success but to highlight just a few:

Nathan Dales (9 grade 9s, and a Distinction\*), Keira Watson (8 grade 9s, 1 grade 8 and a Distinction\*), Laura Hardaker (7 grade 9s, 1 grade 8 and 2 Distinction\*s), Joseph Lawton (4 grade 9s, 1 grade 8 and 4 grade 7s), Scarlett Kacperski (4 grade 9s, 4 grade 8s and 3 Distinctions), Madeleine Wook (3 grade 9s, 4 grade 8s, 1 grade 7 and a Distinction\*).

We are particularly impressed by the progress made by Sophie Kirtley and Abi Sills, who achieved the highest progress scores in the school. On average, they exceeded their challenging targets by more than 3 GCSE grades in EACH subject, compared to what was expected nationally. Ellie Scates and James Westwick achieved more than 2 and a half GCSE grades on average above challenging national targets too!

I would like to thank all the students and parents/carers who support them, for an excellent start to the year; our students arrived on time, over the line for a prompt start at 8.20am, ready for learning with the correct uniform and equipment and that all important positive attitude for learning, because together we can all ensure our young people succeed.

### **Behaviour policy**

Today your child attended an assembly launching our Trust's new behaviour policy. You can view the policy here: <https://www.bydales.outwood.com/policies>. The overarching aim of the policy is to promote positive behaviour, to ensure our students grow into safe, respectful and responsible citizens and allow them to learn in a calm environment.

We want all of our students, during their time with us, to reach the 'top of the pyramid', meaning that they leave us as good citizens, and this is the rationale for our approach. We want our students to do this not only because they have to, but because they want to, and are mature enough to know how to do the right thing.

In the policy you can view the pyramid and read about some of the tools (STAR, STEPS, CHOICES and ABCDEF of Learning) we specifically use to support students. These tools support students in developing the correct behaviours to ensure they learn better and helps prepare them for life once they leave our academy.

We want to help students to make the right choices. In order to do this it is important to help students understand that actions have consequences and as part of this we continue to operate a robust sanction and reward system. This is part of how we manage behaviour rather than the entirety of our processes, which include how we live, our values, and how we constantly teach one another by our actions and words.

Our sanction systems are there to act as mild deterrents to misbehaviour, and as part of how we define and uphold our culture of safety, respect and responsibility. These work best when they are consistent, fair and proportionate. Our rewards are targeted, sincere and also promote our values. You can read more details about our praise and sanctions systems in the policy. The consequences system remains the same in the classroom, however there are a number of interventions 'prior to formal consequences' outlined in the policy.

I would draw your attention to two specific changes that sit within the consequences system. Any detentions for missed homework will be an hour detention not thirty minutes. This change has been made as we saw a decline in homework completion when the policy changed from a one hour to a thirty minute detention, and we know the completion of homework has a direct link to improved outcomes for all young people.

We have introduced a two hour detention for students who truant. Previously the sanction for truanting was a half day in the reflection room, which impacted on lesson time, the new two hour detention will enable students to catch up on missed learning as a result of truanting.

Working together with a fair and consistent approach creates an environment where all young people can flourish, learn from their mistakes and develop the necessary work place skills, attitudes and attributes.

### **Communication**

We encourage all parents/carers to communicate with colleagues in the academy.

The student planner can be used to communicate with the academy, parents/carers should sign their child's planner every week these are checked weekly in VMG time. Parents/carers can contact their child's VMG tutor directly as a first point of contact, students see their VMG tutor every day.

If you have an issue relating to a specific subject your child is studying, you should contact their particular subject teacher or subject Head of Department.

You can also contact your child's Learning Manager; the Learning Managers are responsible for your child's year group:

Year 7: Mrs Reid

Year 8: Mrs Boyes

Year 9: Mrs Bade

Year 10: Mr Burton

Year 11: Mr Page

If you wish to discuss any issues regarding special educational needs or disabilities, please contact the Academy SENCo, Miss Gates.

### **Community**

Community relationships are extremely important to the academy and we have the highest expectations for students not only whilst they attend the academy but also as they journey to and from the academy, we expect all our students to be respectful and responsible at all times.

I would take this opportunity to remind everyone of the following to ensure all our students are safe:

- students must use the crossings to cross the road both outside and inside the academy,
- we would request that anyone who is collecting a child from the academy kindly follow these expectations:

- the turning circle in the academy grounds should only be accessed by disability badge holders at the start/end of the academy day
- the speed bumps are for ensuring traffic speed is slow
- do not park on the yellow lines
- Churchill Drive is not a route to the school. The signage at both ends is clear that it is a road for access only and residents. Please, in particular, do not park on Churchill Drive anywhere near the junction with the Coast Road as this obscures vision for students crossing the road and for the staff supervising them
- take care when dropping students on the road by 'The Ship', there has been an increase of cars making U-turns at the opening of the road by the 'The Ship'.

### **E-safety**

I would also like to remind parents and carers that advice and guidance regarding e-safety, being safe on-line/social media can be found at:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org>

Last academic year we had an increase in issues related to unsafe behaviour on-line/social media taking place outside of academy hours. I would urge parents/carers to remind their young people that behaving safely, respectfully and responsibly should be a priority not only in the 'real' world but also when communicating on-line/using social media. If any parents/carers would like further advice regarding issues of e-safety please contact Miss Peacock, Assistant Principal.

### **Being safe and healthy**

We have a number of students and staff in the academy who suffer with severe asthma. NO AEROSOLS are allowed in the academy as these can trigger asthma attacks.

We are concerned about health and wellbeing of our young people and the increasing amount of fizzy drinks and 'family sized' sweets and biscuits some students are bringing into the academy to consume. These are not conducive to good health but they also impact on a young person's ability to learn effectively. These items should not be brought into the academy, if they are they will be confiscated.

We encourage students to travel sustainably and we want to ensure when our young people are cycling to and from the academy they have the skills and knowledge to ensure they keep themselves and others safe. With this in mind there will be a bike safety awareness evening for students and parents who wish to ride by bike to the academy, this will take place on **Wednesday 11 September 2019 5.30 – 6pm**. All students will require a bike permit, the permit will be issued on the bike safety awareness evening by Mr Middleton, Assistant Principal. If parents are unable to attend the safety awareness evening, students may attend on their own. The bike safety awareness evening will be repeated each term.

### **Transport**

As parents may be aware, Stagecarriage bus company has gone into liquidation. We provided permission for them to run two services to/from Bydales over the years, for student/parent convenience and to supplement existing service buses to the academy. The Stagecarriage routes were not services run by the school, nor did they generate income for us. The two separate routes were to/from New Marske and also to/from Mickledales, Redcar each morning and after school.

We are exploring whether other bus companies may choose to run a similar service. We need to gauge how many students would REGULARLY use these services, so we may provide information to local transport companies for consideration. Please complete the online survey as soon as possible.

This will allow us to see if there is a possibility of facilitating another company deciding to run a similar route, and if so, to help with a tendering process. There will be a temporary service, in the first instance, operating from **Wednesday 4 September** until **Tuesday 10 September**, via Coatham Coaches. Please follow the link below to complete the survey, one form per child, residing in New Marske or near Mickledales.

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLScNs3gOv38wGkbBs.../viewform...>

Attached to this letter is information from Arriva regarding student travel.

### **Praising Stars (PS)**

You will receive your child's ½ termly Praising Stars progress report in the last week of every ½ term. This also provides an opportunity to comment on your child's report.

Parents' Evenings for 2019 - 2020

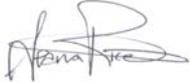
- Parents' Evening 1 – Thursday 7 November 2019 (linked to PS1)
- Parents' Evening 2 – Thursday 27 February 2020 (linked to PS3)
- Parents' Evening 3 – Thursday 23 April 2020 (linked to PS4)

### **Term dates and holidays**

All term dates and holidays can be accessed here: <https://www.bydales.outwood.com/term-dates>. Attendance is a priority for everyone at the academy because we know it has a direct link to successful outcomes for young people. With this in mind I urge all parents/carers not to take their children out of education during term time.

We look forward to working with you and your young person throughout this academic year.

Yours faithfully



Seana Rice

Encl. Letter sent on behalf of Arriva North East