

13th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As the end of the school year draws to a close, I would like to thank you for your support and commitment over the year. It has been difficult at times, but we have definitely weathered the storm!

There is much to be proud of. We now have a very successful Remote Learning Hub; every student who needs it, should now have a digital learning device and internet access; we have our own basic food bank in school for emergency support; we have responded to every government legislation; supported families through lockdown; successfully implemented mass testing and self-testing; most importantly we have all kept going. Hopefully we can all see and end in sight and that there is a good summer ahead of us.

### **Arrangements for the End of Term**

Students will break up for the summer on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 at 1.30pm. We will celebrate with a barbecue and music in the afternoon, students will then be dismissed from their form room at around 1.30pm.

You will receive an end of term report showing attainment and attitude to learning as well as an explanation of the assessment grading. The target grade will give you an indication of the commitment that will be needed to achieve the final GCSE grade. We have been realistic with the colour coding to allow for lost time and gaps in learning.

### **Arrangements for the Start of Term**

There are two training days at the start of term: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

***Year 11 will start on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September will be for our new Year 7 only.***

Breakfast will be available every day during form time and lunch will resume to our normal cafeteria system. Please see the attached information on our cashless system.

### **What will Year 11 look like**

The start time for school will be 8.30am and the end of school for Year 11 will be 4.00pm. At great expense, like most schools, we have scheduled a Lesson 6 to ensure that every student has the best possible chance of fulfilling their potential at the end of Year 11. This lesson is non-negotiable. It is imperative that students maximise the learning opportunity that is left to them. Time is short and staff here at Studio West have planned and rewritten Schemes of Work to ensure that every student enters the exam period confident and secure in their abilities. In essence the academic year for teaching will end around Easter time, leaving scope for revision before the exam period begins in May. That gives us only 8 months of teaching. Lesson 6 is essential, and learning will be fast and effective, I promise you that. We will not let our students down and no one will be left behind, that is my promise to you.

In September 2022, we will open our brand-new Post 16 centre in readiness for Year 11 graduating into Year 12. We are planning courses at A Level and Level 3 BTEC. We are also running the "Career Related International Baccalaureate Programme" which is the first of its kind in the North-East. I will



be sending more information home to about this next year. There will also be an Enterprise Hub where students will be able to apply and set up their own business. I have also appointed a new Head of Post 16, one year in advance of opening to get everything ready for our Year 11 joining Year 12. The Post 16 centre will be state-of-the-art and fully equipped to enable us to create amazing futures for you son / daughter.

### **What can you do?**

**Attendance** is the key to success. Learning is always in the moment, and we want you to ensure that your son/daughter has 96%, anything less puts achievement and progress in serious jeopardy.

**Lesson 6** is non-negotiable, please support us in this.

**The Remote Learning Hub:** Your son/daughter will have homework every single day and should be working on average 2 hours 3 or 4 nights per week, plus weekends. Every Year 11 should have a digital device and access to the internet. Please contact us if you need help with this.

**Being prepared is a basic requirement:** A school bag with planner, equipment, timetable, homework means students are serious about their learning.

### **September is a Bright New Start**

It is important that this next year starts as we mean to go on. We have a good deal of ground to make up and we want everyone to work hard and get back into good study habits. Please see attached description of the Business Dress and PE kit which is non-negotiable. Please be aware that facial piercings are not permitted and students will be required to remove them before they enter the school. This again is non-negotiable.

We have had a lot of building work done on the school and there is still some to complete over the summer. We are also employing 12 new members of staff as we are growing as a school. Please don't worry, we are still committed to our small school, family ethos, this will not change. From September we will be full in Years 7 – 11.

All that remains is for me to wish you a safe and happy summer break and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Wigham



Mrs Wigham  
**Principal**

