

Friday 23rd September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Information for parents/carers – The start to term and key information

I write to you as we reach the end of our third week back into the new academic school year where we have proudly welcomed back our pupils to school after the summer break. Pupils have met myself and other members of the new senior leadership team and those members of teaching, support and administrative staff who have joined Northumberland PRU this September as we continue to grow and change as a school.

I would like to begin by extending my thanks for your continued support for myself, staff and the PRU as our students have arrived in the highest standard of school uniform for school. We are pleased to have provided all pupils with key items of uniform in order to support our families in challenging times. Where there have been slight issues with a small number of pupils not attending in uniform, we are working supportively with families to ensure that this is addressed so that everyone attends in full uniform and meets our expectations regarding pupil appearance.

I would particularly like to highlight how well our new students in Years 8 and 9 have made the transition into school and overall we are very pleased with the attitude and effort which students in all year groups have demonstrated so far. We have worked with and are grateful of the support of parents where some students have needed additional help to follow our new systems and routines or meet our expectations.

We have continued to address all aspects of the school over the summer in our drive for improvement as well as making some key changes to attendance, behaviour, and teaching & learning in order to meet the recommendations made to us by OFSTED at our last inspection in March 2020.

Attendance and Punctuality

A number of our year groups so far this term have met or have been near to meeting the school attendance expectation for every student of 96%. It is essential that students attend school every day in order to address the lost learning generated from school closures caused by national lockdowns over the past two years.

Quality First Teaching & Learning

Pupils have been receiving key information about our new approaches to teaching and learning in lessons, as well as how work is expected to be presented in books. A priority has been to inform students about how staff will provide feedback on their work and how they will be informed about target grades, current progress and how they can further improve. We have also introduced ICT, Spanish and Music to our Key Stage 3 curriculum this term.

This year in school we are prioritising the importance of reading widely and often along with increasing the teaching of literacy and phonics skills upon pupils' return to school. Literacy and reading will continue to be given increased time and priority within morning registration period, balanced with a robust and effective personal development and careers curriculum to help inform students and support mental health and well-being.

Behaviour for Learning

Here at Northumberland PRU we aim to provide a safe, caring, well-ordered environment, which is vital to effective teaching and learning.

Our approach towards behavior and attitudes to learning requires the commitment and consistency of practice of all staff to ensure that pupils know the standards expected of them. All members of the school are expected to help maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, with courtesy and mutual respect as basic requirements. Students will be treated consistently.

Our approach towards behaviour is not exhaustive and underpins the school rules:

- **Be Prepared**
- **Follow Instructions**
- **Look the Part**

Aims

- Promote British values
- Support effective teaching and learning
- Foster mutual respect
- Prepare learners for the adult world
- Create consistency of expectations and consequences
- Challenge poor behaviour in an appropriate manner
- Keep staff and students safe
- Create calm corridors and purposeful classrooms

Positive behaviour and attitudes towards learning will be widely celebrated and remarked upon via spoken word, postcards issued home and our new pupil rewards scheme. This week we have launched our new 'Behaviour for Learning' ladder system following conversations with both staff and students and it is now very clear how pupils will be rewarded for showing

positive attitudes toward learning and good conduct, as well as how sanctions will be applied and how pupils will be supported when these expectations are not met. Details of this can be found on our website.

Forms of unacceptable behaviour will be met with an appropriate sanction (e.g. verbal reprimand or 'call back' break or lunch detention. Parents and carers will be informed if their child has received a behaviour 'call back' through our regular telephone calls home made by the form tutor or support assistant.

Communication home from school

I hope that the recent launch our new Northumberland PRU website at the start of term now makes gaining key information about school and events easier to navigate.

This year we will also be introducing on-line Parent Evenings for the first time and next month we will hold a virtual Parent Evening event. Further information will be released nearer the end of next week.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for your understanding and support and I look forward to working in partnership with you as we move through the school year, sharing the successes and achievements of our pupils.

Yours sincerely

R. L. Carr

Richard Carr
Headteacher

