

Tuesday 26th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I write to you as we rapidly approach your child reaching the end of the spring term and the upcoming Easter holiday break.

Northumberland PRU continues to change for the better. Over the next term I will be communicating with you to provide you with regular updates as to the progress which the PRU is making. It is crucial that we keep you informed and maintain your support. I therefore write with this aim in mind.

After the Easter holiday Northumberland PRU will be closed to all students on Monday 15th April 2024 due to a Teacher Training Day where only all staff will be on-site.

Students will return to school as normal (usual taxi arrangements) on Tuesday 16th April 2024.

General updates

We are pleased to welcome two new members of teaching staff who will join us at the PRU from the new Summer term. Both Mr McCudden and Mrs McCluskey are very experienced teachers who are very strong additions to our growing staff body.

Earlier this month we successfully took part in the national celebration of World Book Day where all of our students received information and took part in a wide range of literature-based activities in order to celebrate reading, writing and books.

All of our lessons this half-term have followed our curriculum theme of 'Conflict' across every subject and students have accessed a wide range of educational and cultural experiences. Our focus will change when students return after the Easter break as our new theme for all lessons will be 'Health & Leisure' for half-term 5.

All students will also receive increased guidance through our Careers Guidance curriculum in the Summer term. This will include information sessions as well as 1-2-1 personal interviews about interests and future employment options and pathways.

We will also use next half-term to continue to deliver education to all students on Relationship and Sexual Education within our timetabled PSHCE lessons. Further information can be found on the school website in relation to our approach to this and we welcome the input and views of all parents/carers.

We will again continue to develop our broad extra-curricular offer currently in place. This term students have accessed the Rugby Sports Leaders Award in school each Thursday, NDA Level 2 Horse care is attended by Pink group each Monday and Thursday off-site and 2 groups have been working with Newcastle United Foundation in completion of the Prince's Trust Award every Monday and Wednesday in school. This term has recently also seen 2 groups work with EVOLVE off-site in Morpeth each Tuesday and Thursday, working towards a Sports Leaders award.

School uniform reminder

All students in Years 7 – 10 must attend school in full Northumberland PRU uniform. Once again a reminder that we have provided all pupils with their own polo shirts and sweaters free of charge.

Most students have been good at wearing the correct uniform and we expect this to continue next term. You can help us by reminding your child of the school's expectations regarding appearance and conduct.

I would like to stress that the style of footwear 'Crocs' are not acceptably safe forms of footwear to be worn in school and any student attending wearing this style of shoe will have contact made with home so that appropriate footwear can be arranged.

Students should bring a bag containing their own water bottle, stationary (pen, pencil, ruler) and PE kit.

Student attendance and punctuality

All students (Year 7 – 10) must continue to remain on the school premises for the full duration of the school day (except when attending a visit or off-site activity), which promotes good punctuality and attendance and which also strongly impacts positively towards further increasing high standards of teaching and learning.

May I please request that doctor or dental appointments are made after 2:30pm wherever possible, ensuring that you provide medical evidence (letter or appointment card) for any medical related absences. I must also stress that in line with DfE guidelines that students must not be taken out of school during term time for holidays as permission cannot be given.

Health & safety and student behaviour expectations

Detailed information about the school behaviour policy and our 'Behaviour for Learning' and rewards systems can be found on our school website <http://www.pru.northumberland.sch.uk/website>.

Mobile telephones and other technical equipment

All mobile telephones must be handed in to staff members each morning by all students for safekeeping where they will be securely stored until the end of day at which point they will be returned to students. This helps support the school approach to safeguarding.

Student medication

Can I also remind all students and parents/carers about our stringent medication policy which stipulates that no medication should be brought onto the school site or administered by any student, other than medication prescribed by a medical professional and that Northumberland PRU has been made aware of by a parent/guardian of the student.

Break time and lunch time – Student catering and refreshments

I can confirm that the cost of a daily breakfast will continue to be fully covered by the school.

Looking ahead

You will recall that earlier this month I issued a text to you highlighting our second Parent/Carer perception survey of the year so that I can seek your views on all aspects of the PRU. Thank you if you have completed this already and if you are yet to do so, please be reminded that the survey remains open for completion until Thursday 28th March.

We will also be issuing information to you about our Summer Term Parent/Carer Information Event as we approach it taking place in July.

With your valued and on-going partnership, I look forward to sharing further successes and updates with you throughout the coming months. You will always be kept updated and we will continue to work together to support all of our students.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Carr', is positioned above the printed name.

Richard Carr, Headteacher