

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear parent/carer,

**Re: Northumberland PRU - Updates and information for parents/carers**

I am writing to provide you with some further information and updates about Northumberland PRU currently as our pupils continue to make great progress with their learning and development. The rest of this term will be very busy with lots of different things taking place and I want to take this opportunity to share information about these with you.

Pupil Progress

We are very pleased with the attendance of the majority of our students and how they are continuing to attend in high standards of our uniform. Attitudes towards learning have also been a huge positive this term with behaviour and conduct both in lessons and at social times areas which our pupils have tried very hard with in line with our new behaviour and rewards systems. We are particularly pleased however with the quality of student written work in their books as this has rapidly improved since September across all classes. Pupils are rightly very proud of their work and extended writing is very strong with clear evidence of progress over time in all books.

The PRU is a calm and ordered learning environment with all pupils receiving high standards of quality first teaching and they are also accessing a broad and diverse curriculum offer which now includes ICT, Spanish and music dependent upon which curriculum pathway students have been assigned to.

We are also working very hard to increase our offer of extra-curricular activities for students to take part in across each week. These run on a rotational basis for each class and so far students have been able to experience one-to-one music lessons, horse-riding and Forestry school activities both in school and off site. This will be further built upon in Term 2 as we look to expand this offer.

Consultation and relocation of the PRU to a new site in January 2023

You will recall that I recently wrote to you to seek your views and feedback on a proposed move of the PRU from our current site here at Hepscott Park to the old Atkinson House site (now vacant) at Seghill as part of a formal consultation process. I received no feedback from parents/carers and I can therefore confirm that the decision has been taken to support the move and relocation. This will take place with both staff and students starting the new term in January 2023 at the new site in Seghill.

As you can imagine, there are a lot of arrangements and organisation that is required to take place over the next few weeks as we prepare for the move to a new school and the final week of term in December will operate slightly differently than normal as we adapt our school timetable so that we begin the moving process of ICT equipment and furniture to be ready for the new school term.

I would like to stress that the school will remain fully open during this week and normal lessons and Christmas and rewards activities will run as normal and will not be greatly affected.

To minimize the impact of the disruption of this final week of term, we have offered the opportunity for each pupil to take part on a 3 day residential trip to a regional outdoor pursuits centre in Durham. This is free of charge for all students. Thank you for signing and returning the consent forms already if your child wishes to take part in this trip. Any student wishing not to take part will continue with lessons as normal here in school.

More detailed information about the final two weeks of term and Christmas arrangements will be posted out in due course as we approach the Christmas break.

### Parent's Evening

You will already have received a letter and email regarding our first parent/carer Evening event of the year. This is an opportunity for all parents/carers to take part in an appointment with key staff in school to discuss academic and pastoral progress of your child.

We are trialing a new software package for the first time with this first event and your feedback will be gathered afterwards as part of our review process.

All information required is available by clicking on the link issued to you in the email to book appointments.

### Parents survey

Continuing the theme of gathering the views and feedback of all parents/carers, thank you to those of you who have already completed the November parent/carer survey which has been both emailed and texted out to home. The voice of parents/carers of our student is highly important in telling us you feel we are doing and all feedback helps inform our future planning and school improvement. All feedback will be shared with you and this mirrors the same process which is carried out here in school with all pupils.

The window for completion of the survey closes at **noon on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November**.

### FIFA World Cup 2022

Excitement is building here in school as the FIFA World Cup is about to begin this weekend. Pupils have been given a range of opportunities to learn about all aspects of this global event through our school curriculum including content about celebrating international cultures, equality and diversity, sport, geography and mathematics. We will be following the competition closely to see how our home nations progress.

I look forward to sharing further updates and more successes of our pupils with you at the end of term.

Yours sincerely,

*R. L. Carr*

Richard Carr, Headteacher