

Thursday 11th July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Information regarding the end of term and re-opening arrangements in September 2024

It gives me great pleasure to write to you and thank you for the support which you have given to myself and staff this year as we approach the end of term. I hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer break and we look forward to your child returning, or in some cases, starting as a new student next term as school re-opens to all students on **Wednesday 4th September 2024**.

This has been another exciting year for us all and one in which we have seen the PRU become fully registered as an examination centre meaning that students in Key Stage 4 can complete GCSE courses and also sit their final examinations here on site with us. In September we will continue to grow by having two class groups of Year 10 students, as well as a Year 11 student group for the first time.

I am pleased to inform you that there will be very little change to our current staffing next year. To ensure that we have enough teaching and pastoral capacity to meet the needs of our increasing numbers of students, September will see a new member of staff joining the PRU to cover a maternity vacancy. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Hindhaugh to the post of Student Emotional Support Manager next year. We will also be pleased to welcome back Mrs Robertson from maternity leave next term.

Below you will find details of the final week in school as well as information about the start to the new academic year.

Please also see the Northumberland PRU website at <http://www.pru.northumberland.sch.uk/website> which also carries key information about all aspects of the school.

You will also find the following documents enclosed in this envelope:

- Northumberland PRU Term Dates 2024-25
- Northumberland PRU School Uniform Information 2024-25

Details of final week of term (Monday 15th – Friday 19th July 2024)

School will operate as normal every day next week with the exception of Friday 19th July. On Friday we will be saying our goodbyes to those students who will be leaving us and all students will attend a whole school lunch before being dismissed for the summer holiday and entering taxis at the earlier time of 12:30pm.

Details of return to school in September

Monday 2nd September 2024 – **Teacher training Day** (School closed to students)

Tuesday 3rd September 2024 – **Teacher training Day** (School closed to students)

Wednesday 4th September 2024 – **School reopens to all students**

School building improvements

Over the summer holidays we will be using the time to make some key improvements to the building ready for September. Firstly, we will be carrying out further decorating work in order to help improve the look of the building in specific areas and we will be replacing some doors on site. Additional ground works will also be conducted to ensure our site looks as good and is as safe as possible.

School uniform in September (Please see sheet included with this letter)

All students in Years 7 – 11 must attend school in full Northumberland PRU uniform. Once again, we will be providing all new students joining the PRU with their own polo shirts and sweaters free of charge. For current students a charge will be made for uniform (prices available on school website).

Students have previously been exceptionally good at wearing the correct uniform and we expect this to continue next year. You can help us by reminding your child of the school's expectations regarding appearance and conduct. Please see the enclosed uniform guide which addresses all areas of uniform.

Student attendance and punctuality

All students (Year 7 – 11) from September **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 the new school website.

Site security – Banned items, mobile telephones and other technical equipment

In line with the Northumberland PRU security policy, all students are given the opportunity to hand in any personal items upon arrival to school which are then securely stored for the day. These items are returned to all students upon departure at the end of each school day. All students are then scanned by a 'hand wand' device to ensure that no items are brought into the school building which are prohibited. This system has operated very successfully during this current academic year

and students both co-operate and tell us that they are appreciative of how we ensure health and safety on our site.

All mobile telephones must continue to be handed in to staff members each morning by all students for safekeeping in line with directions given to all schools by the Department for Education.

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. Lunch is dependent upon whether an individual student is in receipt of Free School Meals.

Looking ahead

There continues to be a lot of excitement about the future for the school as we change to accommodate different key stages of students and we look forward to welcoming our new group of students who will be joining us in September.

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,

R. L. Carr

Richard Carr, Headteacher

Northumberland PRU

School Uniform 2024-2025

Expectations of dress:

A high standard of personal appearance is expected by all pupils attending Northumberland Pupil Referral Unit.

School uniform

Northumberland PRU supplies every new student free of charge on entry with the Northumberland PRU polo shirt or T-shirt and sweatshirt. These items must always be worn daily.

The uniform for all students is as follows:

- Northumberland PRU polo shirt/T-shirt (black) -first item issued
- Northumberland PRU sweater/hoodie (black) -first item issued
- Black trousers or skirt - from your chosen supplier
- Black shoes/trainers - from your chosen supplier (CROCS are not permitted)
- Black tights (to be worn with skirts)
- PE/Design Technology kit (when applicable)

PE kit should consist of black tracksuit bottoms, black T-shirt/polo and trainers.

Skirts should be made out of the same material as school trousers, the length must be either on or below the knee. To be worn with black tights.

Please note that chain stores may sell items as school uniform, which are not acceptable at Northumberland PRU. If you have any doubts whether an item fits the policy, please check with school.

Head Coverings (hijabs)

These must be plain black, grey or navy

Hair colour/styling

Hair colour and style must be appropriate for school. Pupils are asked to respect this.

As part of our Personal Development programme, we ask students to consider their appearance and the impression it makes on others. This is particularly important when representing Northumberland PRU.

At Northumberland PRU we are always conscious of health and safety risks both to the owner and others, consequently, the only jewellery allowed is a wristwatch and a single pair of stud earrings. In addition, facial or bodily piercings, are not allowed.

Footwear

Footwear must meet health & safety standards. CROCS are not permitted footwear.

If pupils, parents or carers have any doubts or questions, please check with PRU staff.