

Friday 8th April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, a very happy Easter and I hope you enjoy your time together as a family as the days become warmer and brighter.

I want to thank you all for the support you have given the school over this term. It has been a busy term and I will outline some of the highlights below. I have also included an update on attendance towards the end of this letter which I'd like you to read with the pupils carefully please.

Returning to movement around the school

As you know the school has taught pupils in their year areas for some time as a result of restricted movement due to the pandemic. A few weeks ago the school (supported by the Trust) decided it was important to return to subject areas and as such re-opened the school to much more movement by the pupils. This was a testing time as many pupils were not used to travelling around the school. I must however commend the pupils who have behaved in an exemplary manner and made the transition back to subject areas really well. Staff are now able to teach in their own rooms, personalise displays and maximise learning opportunities (which can only be a good thing for the pupils) and this is as a result of every child moving around the school, sensibly, calmly and maturely. Please thank your child for this.

Year 7 highlights

It's been an exciting term for Year 7 with sporting accomplishments, VIP hosting and star performances. Year 7 members of the girl's football team made it all the way to the under 13 final and Year 7 boys tried their hand at rugby playing in a warm up match for Newcastle Thunder at Kingston Park Stadium. Our Year 7 pupils hosted the Lord Mayor and esteemed guests from the Taiyuan Foreign Language school in China. Huge numbers of Year 7 pupils successfully auditioned for the summer production of 'Matilda' and are busy rehearsing to put on a fantastic show for friends and family next term. As always, Year 7 have demonstrated amazing resilience and maturity when they transitioned to moving independently around the school for the first time. Another superb term for Year 7.

Year 8 highlights

We have been really pleased with the way in which our Year 8 students have responded to moving to lessons across the school for the first time. Pupils have enjoyed the benefits of being taught in subject areas and their focus in lessons has been much improved. Pupils' latest attitude to learning grades are now available to view on the SIMS Parent App. Please take the time to discuss these with your child.

Year 9 highlights

Year 9 students have had the process for selecting their Year 10 and Year 11 Options explained to them on Friday afternoon. Details have been emailed to parents. Can we ask parents to please discuss these with students and make selections as explained in the email? Please make sure you have discussed the EBacc qualification; students must choose to study French to qualify for this.

Year 10 highlights

We have been delighted with the way in which our Year 10 students have responded to our high expectations this term. We have been showcasing pupils' work on a daily basis and celebrating fantastic work in a range of subjects. Pupil behaviour both inside and outside of lessons has been good and standards of uniform and presentation have been much improved. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

Kenton School is committed to keeping all children safe

This letter can be supplied in large print, as an audio recording or in a language other than English. Please contact Ms G Taylor, PA to the Principal to arrange an alternative version.

Year 11 highlights

Well done to the 244 pupils who have attended additional intervention sessions this term. All your hard work and efforts will be worth it on GCSE Results Day on Thursday 25th August 2022.

Sixth Form highlights

We were delighted one of our students who applied to Oxford has received an offer for studying next year. Another student has done exceedingly well to gain an offer for Veterinary Studies, whilst a member of Year 13 was called up to represent Northumberland in the National Cross Country Championships. Finally, we are delighted to be able to celebrate our Young Enterprise Group winning the Sustainability Award at the North East conference.

Teaching and Learning



After Easter we will continue to use a four-part lesson as a default structure of teaching and learning, though we have now slightly changed the wording here. This is an exciting phase of Trust-wide collaboration and we all feel that making “connections” (between prior learning and today's lesson - but also between students and teachers as we meet and greet at the door) is a more appropriate word to describe lesson starts, for example.

As shown in the diagram above we will now talk about “**Connect**” to start a lesson, “**Learn**” from how the teacher guides and models, “**Apply**” when students then work independently and “**Review**” at the end of a lesson when we check that day's learning.

On our return the whole school will focus intensely on the “apply” phase of learning as we are adamant that students must complete tasks to the highest of their ability within a given timeframe. Students silently and proactively buying in to this will of course be rewarded with praise points and hard work will be championed and applauded. Those unwilling to ‘knuckle down’ and try their best here will be challenged using our consequences system. Thank you in advance for your anticipated support in talking to your daughter/son about the importance of this part of the lesson.

Year 11

Congratulations to all Year 11 pupils who have recently received their March Mock Examination Results in our first face to face parents' event in over two years. It was a pleasure to welcome so many parents back into school and share with you how we are going to continue to support your child in the 14 school days that remain until GCSE Examinations commence on Monday 16th May 2022.

I wanted to take this time to encourage all Year 11 pupils to make the very most of the additional intervention sessions offered and of course to wish them all, the best of luck for their upcoming exams.

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Enrichment Opportunities

Our Enrichment Programme has been extended this year and now includes a range of activities such as sports, cadets, drama, music, science and chess. The offer has been reviewed and tailored by our Student Leadership Team who discussed the offer as a group and requested further activities to also be included.

Please encourage your child to consider attending some of our enrichment activities. Our current programme can be found on our website: www.kenton.newcastle.sch.uk/kentonaspire

Kenton Combined Cadet Force continues to grow from strength to strength with Year 7-10 parading. Our cadets have accessed their first weekend camp and have successfully completed emergency first aid training, part of their basic cadre which they passed with flying colours, all demonstrating leadership, organisation and communication skills, resilience and respect. If your child is interested in joining the CCF, please ask them to speak with Miss Gibson or Mr Lilley direct or they can reply to the CCF emails to join the waiting list.

Attendance

I remain extremely concerned about the levels of attendance in school and will be working hard this summer term to make sure we get the balance right between encouraging pupils to return to school whilst, in cases, adopting more punitive measures such as Fixed Penalty Notices.

To encourage pupils to once again see attendance as an important part of school and something to aim high for, we will reset all attendance figures from the 25th April. From this date pupils will once again have 100% attendance this year and will continue to have 100% attendance until they have a day's absence. I cannot stress enough the link between high levels of attendance and excellent academic progress.

Pupils with 100% attendance from this date will:

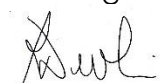
- Be acknowledged and recognised in our assemblies
- Qualify for rewards and praise
- Improve their academic performance and open up opportunities for a brighter future
- Qualify for a surprise and exciting end of term trip.

But we cannot do this alone as a school, I need parents support in ensuring pupils return to school and take attendance seriously once more. I understand how difficult the pandemic has been for families but we must try to move forward and once again place attendance at the heart of what we do.

Finally, myself and the Leadership Team will continue to work with determination and transparency, supported by the Executive Principal, The Trust and the Kenton School Staff, we will continue to strive to deliver the very best teaching and learning experience for all pupils and live up to the school's motto of 'All Different All Equal'.

Enjoy the break.

Kind regards



R Devlin
Acting Principal

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