



School Bulletin for 31st August 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Start of New Academic Year

Welcome back to the new academic year 2018/2019.

It was great to see our students returning to school after the summer break. They have all made a very impressive start to the new year. Despite the weather, students settled well and the school felt calm and focused. Good quality teaching and learning was visible in all subject areas.

I would like to welcome all new Year 7 students starting at The North School this year. Beginning secondary school is both an exciting and daunting experience and our Community structure, tutor groups and strong support teams will ensure that all Year 7's settle into school life quickly and smoothly.

On the first day of term the Senior Leadership team met with all year groups during the assemblies. The Deputies shared with students some inspirational data relating to the recent public examination results, re-iterated basic standards as well as introducing some key changes to teaching. Some additional reflections relating to Growth Mindset were also communicated.

School Values

I want to thank everyone involved in the work in recognising and concluding important values The North School should prioritise. The process involved the Students' Leadership team, governors, Parents' Forum and staff.

Students were very clear that **RESPECT** comes first and they highlighted the importance of kindness. **ACHIEVEMENT** is a core purpose for any school and our recent GCSE and A-Level results demonstrate this is definitely one of our priorities. Achievement is closely linked with aspirations and high expectations. We want our students to have ambition in life and to aim high. Staff, parents and students highlighted the importance of **RESILIENCE** and having a mental toughness when dealing with both academic and life challenges. All contributors wanted to highlight another essential element of the school life which is **COMMUNITY** and inclusion. We understand the concept of Community in a number of ways: two school Communities as well as the whole school and the local community. The easy part of deciding the key words and appropriate graphical representation has been easy. The big challenge ahead of us is to live the values.



Traffic Outside School

As a result of parents dropping off and picking up our students, there has been a considerable increase in the amount of traffic using Essella Road and we would like to request that parents continue to show consideration to the residents of Essella Road and surrounding areas with whom we have maintained a very good relationship with over the years.

You will be aware that to allow students and other pedestrians to leave the school safely at the end of the day the main school gates are closed between 14:55-15:10hrs.

If you are parking in Essella Road, or any of the surrounding roads, to wait for your children after school, please can we ask you to be mindful of local residents and not block driveways. Also, we would suggest that to avoid congestion on leaving Essella Road, you turn left onto Hythe Road instead of right - trying to cross Hythe Road at 15:00hrs is very difficult as the traffic is heavy at this time of day due to local schools all finishing at the same time.

We have requested the presence of PCSO's in the afternoon and our SLT team will be on duty along Essella Road at the end of the school day to help with traffic management. Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Year 11 Parents' Information Evening

This information meeting takes place next Thursday 6th September between 18:00-19:30hrs. It is hoped as many parents/carers as possible attend as it will give them an understanding of what is involved in this important year and how they can best support their son/daughter. There will be an opportunity to purchase Revision Guides for which the school can only take cash or cheque.

Sixth Form 2018 Leavers

At the end of June, we celebrated with and said goodbye to our Year 13 and 14 students. We are extremely proud of this cohort of students and the results they achieved this summer. We wish them the very best of luck for the future and hope they stay in touch and let us know the further successes they will undoubtedly achieve. A fantastic group of students who we will miss.



Parents' Forum

Next Monday 3rd September sees the first of this year's Parents' Forum meeting which starts at 18:00hrs and will be led by Mrs Lawrence and Mrs Ellerby. The agenda includes: Year 11 and Sixth Form results, Changes to Teaching and Learning, New Deputy Head introduction, Strategies for the year and Communication for the group update.

Baby Rabbits for Sale

The School Farm has baby Dutch rabbits for sale at the cost of £20.00 each. There are three boys and one girl and they are ready to go to their new homes now. Please contact Miss Weeks (Weeks.V@north.kent.sch.uk) at the Farm for more details.

Sixth Form Transition and Taster Days

The end of Term 6 saw our Year 12 Sixth Form Transition and the Year 11 Sixth Form Experience.

Both events were extremely successful with students experiencing a range of activities from subject taster lessons, team building activities and skill workshops. The new Year 12 students were sent off on their holiday equipped with tasks to complete over the summer to help them make a smooth transition into the Sixth Form on their return.

Year 11's were given a taster of how things operate in the Sixth Form and we hope it has given them some inspiration for the year ahead and the grades they need to aim for in order to study the subjects offered in the Sixth Form. Further opportunities will be made available to Year 11 in the next couple of months to help prepare them for their next steps after the GCSE's. We look forward to welcoming them along with their parents to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 15th November.



Dates for Diary

In addition to the Parents' Forum and the Year 11 Parents' Information Evening both mentioned above, dates for your diary this Term are:

- 13th September – Year 12 Welcome Evening – 17:30-18:30hrs;
- 20th September - Year 7 Settling-In Evening – 16:00-19:00hrs;
- 27th September – Prize Giving Evening -18:30-20:30hrs;
- 4th October – Year 6 Open Evening – 17:00-20:00hrs;
- Term ends Friday 12th October.

Sports Results

No results to report this week.

Regards,

Grahame Ward

School Business Manager

Contact email: ward.g@north.kent.sch.uk