



## COMMUNITY

Corona Virus Update 25 - Year 10 Only: 7th July 2020

# PREPARING FOR YEAR 11

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following our community-wide update, we wanted to send a bespoke and targeted letter to our current Year 10 students who will be joining us in September as Year 11 for their final year at Newsome High School.

Following the endless energy and commitment shown by our staff to ensure continued learning and education via our virtual platforms, we have conducted analysis of engagement and attitudes to learning during lockdown. This has resulted in very specific follow-up actions depending on the needs of each child.

- The results have been very mixed and the contrast in levels of engagement are concerning.
- A **large number** of students have shown **exceptional** commitment and attitudes towards their education and completed some **amazing** work with regular communication with their teachers. They have also shown **incredible** independent learning skills in areas they believe they need to further develop. We commend them for this - **well done!**
- Unfortunately, some students have had **very little** engagement in their studies, **not engaging** with set work or follow-up communication, including phone calls and invitations to school. This is extremely concerning and has led to a number of home visits by Senior Leaders and Pastoral staff.

We feel a clear message and stark warning is needed to those not engaging and this comes from pure passion, commitment and drive to ensure **ALL** students understand the importance of the upcoming academic year. We want to make sure your child has every opportunity of reaching or surpassing their potential. In order to do this, they must engage with what is on offer, to succeed in the most important year of their lives. At a time when so much disruption has taken place and there is so much uncertainty to come, we must ensure the efforts of your child are monumental.



**NEWSOME HIGH SCHOOL | EVERYONE EXCEPTIONAL EVERYDAY**  
**TAKE CARE ☆ STAY SAFE ☆ KEEP LEARNING**





With the above in mind, we urge you to either continue to **praise** your child if they have shown **exceptional** work ethic and spur them on even more. If your child has shown **no or little** effort and engagement, please explain the importance of the feedback that has to be relayed to future colleges, work placements and employers post Newsome. Staff will need to base their decisions on your child's attitude to learning in order to demonstrate they have taken their education seriously.

In relation to the post Newsome transition, you and your child have been receiving invitations from C&K careers to attend webinars with detailed information on college and apprenticeships. We have also shared the colleges' virtual open days information. It is of the utmost importance that you and your child are as informed as possible as to the options available. We are lucky to have some of the country's top post-16 education and apprenticeship providers here in Huddersfield. Make sure your child understands the entry requirements for the career path they wish to follow. In September, they will be receiving their account details for the Kirklees post-16 application portal 'Get Into' and will begin to complete their personal statements and choose college courses.

Many of you will be worried about how the exam series will look next Summer. At the moment, the exams regulator Ofqual is in consultation over their proposals for the exams which will remain largely unchanged. The following amendments have been proposed to alleviate time constraints in the run-up to the exams but the exam content and style will be the same:

- Science core practicals are to be demonstrated only.
- Art/Photography portfolios may be examined alone without the final timed examination.
- Geography Fieldwork may no longer be examined.
- Spoken language in English may be assessed internally.
- French/German speaking may be assessed internally.
- History curriculum content may be reduced.
- PE practicals may be adjusted to remove team sports.
- The requirement to watch a live performance may be removed from Drama.

These arrangements will be communicated once the consultation process has been completed and the final adjustments published. Many of these measures place further emphasis on teacher judgements which must be backed up by evidence so once again underlining the importance of full engagement at school. The Department for Education is keen to stress that the vast majority of students should complete their full suite of qualifications. We intend to increase our support for Year 11 students with targeted revision sessions in the form of 'period 6' lessons from 3 to 4pm. The timetable for this will be shared and promoted as soon as it is appropriate to do so.

We can't stress enough the importance of having 100% sheer focus and determination in their final year (more than any other year group ever before!) This will also require a fair amount of resilience and patience but our pastoral team will be on hand, as ever to support through difficult times. We are ambitious for each and every child to achieve their very best - something that could be very difficult if a lack of engagement is seen moving forward.





We understand this has been a difficult time for us all and some families, students and indeed staff have been significantly affected by CoronaVirus. We speak with the aforementioned ambition, when we say that this should be used as a motivational tool to strive even more and show how we can still succeed - even in the most difficult of times.

We hope that this letter gives a useful script/prompt when relating the importance of education to your child and that it prepares them for a challenging - and hopefully rewarding - Year 11 to come.

Yours faithfully,

**Mr D Watkin**  
Headteacher

**Ms L Morgan**  
Deputy Headteacher

**Mr J Hinchliffe**  
Deputy Headteacher



**NEWSOME HIGH SCHOOL | EVERYONE EXCEPTIONAL EVERYDAY**  
**TAKE CARE ☆ STAY SAFE ☆ KEEP LEARNING**

