



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

We have reached the end of another busy half-term with lots of exciting developments and improvements to teaching and learning in school. Staff have received a range of training to enhance learning environments and introduce new and exciting initiatives to support your child in their learning.

Thank you to those who attended our Ofsted information session. As stated in the report, our actions so far have been positively acknowledged and time is now needed so that the full advantages can be seen and evidenced. I and the Governors were overwhelmed with your kind words and support and share our passion for the exciting journey our school is on. I challenge any negative perceptions of our school and community and welcome any visitor to see the amazing work staff do on a daily basis. I, for one, am extremely proud to serve our community and this is where my own ambitions and passion for our young people comes from and want all to share this approach.

Previously, parents and carers have told me that a continued focus needs to be kept on discipline and we are committed to this. Our school climate has seen huge improvements evidenced by external visitors who praise our school regularly. We have delivered assemblies to all students as we continue to embed our school values - which are at the very core of everything we do. Before we left for the Christmas break, we were delighted to issue student rewards badges for those who are consistently getting it right. As part of our drive to further improve standards in terms of behaviour and attitudes to learning, we have had to make some very saddening decisions to permanently exclude (7 in total this year) a number of students, showing that we take this area of school improvement very seriously. What this will do however is ensure that your child has the very best learning environment in order for them to succeed. We have introduced a new mantra entitled 'Zero Tolerance' to a number of areas that still need to be improved - as expected, students are responding to this exceptionally.

As our new curriculum is feeding through all year groups, we are expecting the best results the school has seen this year and staff are working extremely hard to ensure we achieve this. I'm also hoping that you are seeing an improvement in communication with increased Headteacher Updates and accompanying staff information. We plan to create a school newsletter to further improve this. You may remember in previous communication, reference to the staff information on our webpage. It's really important to use this so you can speak to the most appropriate member of staff to support specific needs.



Although we have made huge improvements in attendance, more still needs to be done. Unfortunately, there has been a number of fines for persistent absence which can lead to prosecution. We don't like to do this, but we have to follow Local Authority legal procedures. We also acknowledge that children are ill at times, but regular absence causes huge disruption to learning and we all have a duty to instill commitment in readiness for successful futures. It has been a pleasure to see increased rewards going to forms and students for those who have excellent attendance and would like to do this more over the coming months.

We have recently appointed a number of new staff to further support learning, these are:

- Mr Frisby (Head of Science)
- Mr Shah (Science Teacher)
- Mrs Harley-Quinlan (English Teacher)
- Mrs Holloway (History Teacher)
- Mr Wimpenny (Pastoral Officer)
- Miss Taylor-Schonhut (SEN Pastoral)
- Mr Heckingbottom (Pastoral Manager covering maternity for Miss Hey)

We have had rigorous interview processes in order to appoint the very best staff and it has been a pleasure to hear the positive feedback from new staff and students about these new appointments.

On a final note, we need your support in ensuring your child further develop their aspirations at home. This includes the following points:

- Encourage your child to spend less time on a games console and engage in reading and writing. Ask about homework and make contact with key staff as outlined on [this section](#) of our website.
- Talk to your child about which career they may be interested in and future aspirations.
- Discuss key skills and values that will set them up well in life - a good starting point are our school values such as Respect, Integrity, Teamwork and Aspiration. See if they understand what these mean and how this will benefit them in a future interview or career.

As always, thank you for your positive support as we make 2019 the best in Newsome's history. We leave for our half-term break on Friday 15th February and return on Monday 25th February at the usual school times.

Yours faithfully

Mr Watkin
Headteacher