



Summer Term Update: 25th June 2018

Dear Parent or Carer

This year has been an exciting and busy time for both staff and students. After demonstrating improved progress in the summer 2017 examinations, we have continued to build on systems to ensure this continues. That said there is still a lot to do to ensure the future success of the school.

Our students have not failed to impress this year, their commitment to education, abundant maturity and demonstration of our core values happens on a daily basis. With this said, we still have many planned improvements to make to ensure our continued improvement. For some, it may feel like the past year has seen so many changes but this is in the very best interests of our learners and to make up for lost time over previous years.

Staffing Update

After a busy recruitment period, we have appointed a number of new teachers that will join us in September. Thank you to those parents who have been in touch, passing on the praise during lessons taught by these colleagues whilst on interview - it's nice to receive these and confirms the decisions made on each appointment. There has been a number of staffing changes this year to ensure that each areas of school is appropriately managed. There has also been some changes made to the Senior Leadership team in school and these are highlighted below. Details of the new starters and those that are leaving us will be sent in the end of term letter.

- Mr Watkin - Headteacher
- Miss Dodds - Deputy Headteacher
- Mr Hinchliffe - Assistant headteacher: Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare
- Miss Morgan - Assistant headteacher: Achievement & Standards
- Mr Mitchell - Pastoral Standards Leader

Curriculum

Leaders have been working hard on our new curriculum which has been designed to enable our students to follow a broad and balanced curriculum which consists of a number of subjects; some of these are compulsory whilst others are chosen from a range of options. The school curriculum has been in need of updating for some time and follows the Department for Education guidelines for all schools nationally. We have assessed the needs of our students and increased learning times for key subject areas such as Maths and English to ensure greater progress in the areas. This has meant that there are less options in some areas but we endeavour to cater for every student. Unfortunately, many schools have had to reduce the number of studied qualifications to meet Government demands and focus on the qualifications that are focussed on the national Progress 8 measures - [click here](#) to find out more in our Progress 8 parent fact sheet. Miss Morgan is leading this area in her role as Assistant Principal for Standards and Achievement.

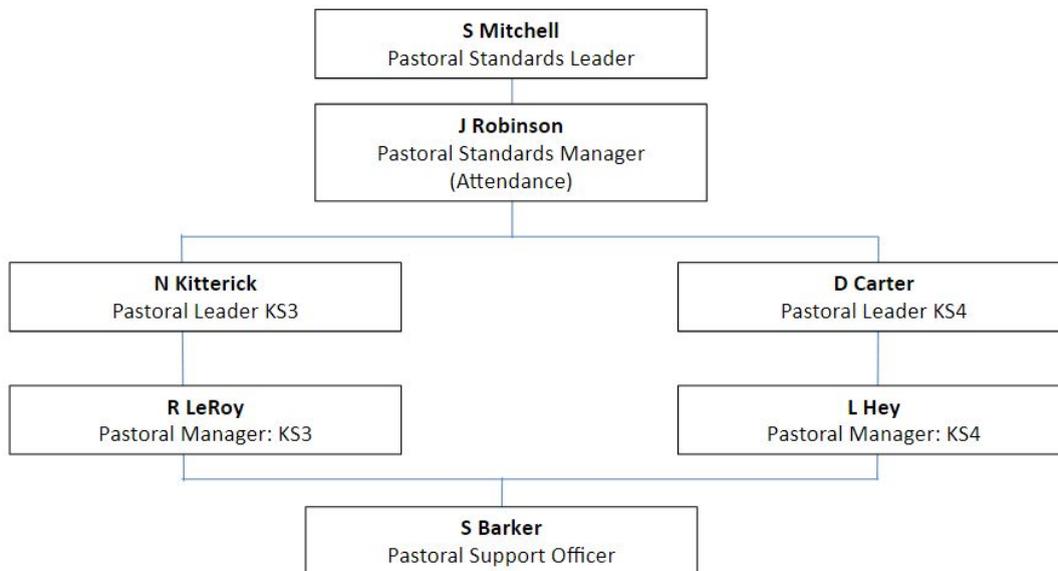


Behaviour & Safeguarding

Following your feedback earlier this year expressing the need to improve behaviour, we implemented our new Assertive Discipline Policy. Students have adapted to our clearer expectations and responded extremely well. This has meant more valuable learning time in lessons. Unfortunately some students however have found our expectations challenging and there has been a small number of students that have been permanently excluded from school. This highlights that action is being taken for those who severely disrupt the learning of others and shows that we have raised whole-school expectations. The number of students that are temporarily excluded has fallen significantly (over 70%) but we will not be satisfied until this is at zero. There is a very small group of students that are being excluded from school because of their behaviour and it is important that we all stress the importance of high expectations and aspirations to ensure this continues to reduce. The increase in rewards has been a pleasure to see and the vast majority of students are getting it right every day.

Mr Hinchcliffe joined us after Easter as Assistant Headteacher overseeing Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare. This area includes behaviour and safety and he will be working on further developments alongside Mr Mitchell to ensure behaviour continues to improve. More work needs to be done in improving attendance in school and Mrs Robinson joined the team as our Pastoral Standards Manager and will be supporting students and families to ensure students attend well and have regular access to education.

Re-alignment within the Pastoral Team will take effect as of September. This is to further develop the pastoral care offered to the students at Newsome High School. The most noticeable change will involve Heads of Year, who will be renamed as Key Stage Leaders and Key Stage Managers with the assistance of a Pastoral Support Officer. The new Pastoral structure can be seen below:





Communication

Thank you for completing the communication survey sent out at Easter asking for your feedback on school service and communication, this information will be used to ensure we further improve our communication and service to parents and carers. To aid these developments our business and administration team have made some new appointments; Mrs Roden: Business Manager (Starting in September), Miss Williams: Office Manager and Miss Frisby: Receptionist. Over the coming weeks, a full review of our communication and administration systems will be reviewed to ensure that all families get the feedback they require.

Following your feedback, we are improving our lines of communication in the form of emails to make it easier for you to get through to the right person promptly. Unfortunately, I am not available to be the main point of contact in all instances which is why we will be updating and improving our Communication strategy and including the direct email links to each area in school. [Click here](#) to access direct email links to each department area to further support communication.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Watkin
Headteacher