



November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a great start to the year with many fantastic opportunities for our young people including Tutor Review Days and the Year 7 Residential visit to Gibside, with much more happening over the coming weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support.

I have detailed some important information for you below.

Half Term Dates & Information

- Year 11 Mock results day: Friday 24th November
- Year 11 Parents Evening: Thursday 30th November (*further information to follow*)
- Our traditional Christmas service at St Georges Church, Harraton, will be taking place in the last week of term. *Further information will be provided towards the end of this half term.*
- Christmas Holiday: The Academy will break up on Friday 22nd December and return on Tuesday 9th January 2018.

Student Assessment Data

Over the next few weeks, parents/carers will receive their child's first assessment data point for this academic year. Information will be provided on current working at grades / levels for every subject. This is the first assessment data point of the year, with two further points in Spring and Summer term. If you would like to discuss this information with your child and/or you have any queries please contact the Academy.

Parent Evening Dates

- Year 7 Parents Evening: Thursday 5th July 2018
- Year 8 Parents Evening: Thursday 21st June 2018
- Year 9 Parents Evening: Thursday 22nd March 2018
- Year 10 Parents Evening: Wednesday 28th March 2018

Parent/Carer Communication

We are dedicated to ensuring that parents/carers are fully informed of all areas of Academy life and each aspect that may affect their child. We have several methods that include:

- Telephone call home
- Letter home via student
- Letter/Postcard home via post
- Text Message to Parent (usually regarding attendance)
- Email to Parent
- Facebook - @biddickacademyschool
- Twitter - @biddickacademy
- Parent Hub – This is our new Parent App. Instructions on how to download and use Parent Hub please can be found on our website at <http://www.biddickacademy.com/newsblog/news/view/parent-hub-instructions> or contact Mrs Southwick southwick.k@biddickacademy.com

Contact Information

It is vital we have up to date contact information for parents/carers. If there are any changes to contact information, particularly telephone numbers, addresses and email, please contact the Student Office staff immediately.

Remembrance Service

On Monday 13th November, the Academy will be holding its annual Remembrance Service which will take part in our Memorial Garden. This year marks the 100-year point since the Battle of Passchendaele (The Third Battle of Ypres) one of the most notorious battles of the war. We have another wonderful group of Cadets from local detachments to support us on parade and a bugler to play The Last Post during our reflection time. This has always been a poignant service and is supported with other Remembrance related lessons and activities across the Academy. Year 11 student Stephen Plant will be laying this years poppy wreath to commemorate those who gave, and those who continue to give.

This service is open to all, and if you wish to join us, please gather at the fence in front of our Memorial Garden by 11am.

Holidays and Absence in Term Time

A reminder that government regulations have made it clear that a school or Academy may not grant any leave of absence from school during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

This means;

- Absence from the Academy for any reason has a significant effect on learning and is proven to reduce student grades.
- An application for absence will be refused unless parents can demonstrate and prove there are exceptional circumstances relating to the request.
- Please note that holidays will not be permitted or authorised.
- If a student already has poor attendance and an unauthorised absence is taken, the information may be sent to Sunderland Authority Attendance Team who will consider legal proceedings at a Magistrate's Court in relation to poor school attendance.

Our duty is to ensure all students have complete access to the education provided.

We ask for parental support to ensure this happens and any absence requests are to be given Ms Hughes in the Student Office.

Department Information

Dance & Performing Arts

We have successfully cast our School of Rock performance, which had a great turn out at auditions with students singing, dancing and acting. Rehearsals are now under way, on Tuesdays and Thursday until 4.15. There is a schedule that students can see outside the studio along with a full cast list. Students are reminded to learn their lines outside of sessions to order to wow their audience in February. Watch this space!

Big thank you to Lana and Leah for organising the dance show so early in the year and the excellent turn out of dancers, especially from Key stage 3. Dance City talent identification will be on December 7th with Geoff Hopson, with any pupils interested to see Mrs Egdell. Next shows are the Tyne and Wear Dance Festival, Year 2 Dance Showcase and then the Big Year 11 show in March.

Christmas music nights will take place on Tuesday 19th December for KS3 and Wednesday 20th December for KS4. Auditions will take place next week after school, in the music department:

KS3 Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th November

KS4 Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th November

ICT & Business

Year 10 ICT Students- the first exam for ICT students will take place on the morning of the 12th January 2018. All ICT students are to attend school on this date. Revision opportunities leading up to the date will be announced by class teachers.

Year 11 Business Students- the finance exam for Year 11 Business students will take place on the morning of 24th January 2018. All students have been provided with revision material and a CD rom with practice tests. Please ensure your child is engaging with revision as this is a mandatory module in order to receive a Level 2 qualification. In school revision opportunities leading up to this exam will be announced by the class teacher.

Languages: Postcard Competition

The languages department launched a post card competition earlier in the year. The card had to be posted and written in either French or Spanish. Thanks to all students who sent a card, some very creative ideas and excellent use of language. The winners were Jasmin Aldridge, Bilal Longstaffe-Nourthi, Abby Rayner and Luke Deale. Prizes will be awarded during assemblies. We are looking forward to displaying the post cards outside the MFL department. Merci! Gracias!

Yours faithfully,



Mr P. Cowen
Head Teacher