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Headteacher:
Miss K Morris



Biddick
Academy

20th July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

The summer term is always packed with exciting events and this year has been no exception. It has been wonderful to see a host of trips taking place, with pupils experiencing a taste of university life at Cambridge University and Newcastle University, Year 10 geography students have been fine tuning their fieldwork skills in Durham. Meanwhile, the running club has taken part in a local parkrun, our Duke of Edinburgh students have completed their Bronze expedition and Year 9 pupils have attended training in Middlesbrough in their role as anti-bullying ambassadors.

Last Thursday evening we enjoyed the first musical performance since the pandemic. It was a pleasure to welcome families to school for an evening of entertainment. The talents of our young performers did not disappoint, with amazing singers taking to the stage. The evening was a wonderful appetiser for next year, when Mrs Tufnell and Mr Elliott are intending to stage a school show.

The School Council have also been busy this term raising funds for the school charity, Cancer Research UK. This has seen them test their leadership skills, organising a Summer Fair, football penalty shoot-out and competitions. The School Council is chaired by the Head Students. I am delighted to announce that Freya Anderson and Alex Deale have been appointed as Head Students next year, having fought off tough competition from other Year 10 applicants. They both spoke with passion and commitment about the importance of student leadership and I'm sure they will be outstanding role models for their peers.

Following last year's huge success, next week we will be welcoming 140 students from our new Year 7 cohort to this year's Biddick Academy Summer School. The theme for this year's Summer School is 'Journeys' and will give these students a chance to participate in teambuilding and personal development activities as well as literacy, numeracy and science sessions to support them in preparing for life at Biddick Academy. They will also visit Whickham Thorns Outdoor Activity Centre for a day of exciting activities where they will have the opportunity to build strong friendships with their new peers.

Parents and carers of Year 9 students will receive a letter this week confirming their child's Options choices for next academic year. This letter will also include information about our 'Key Stage 4 Bridging' booklet which contains a selection of tasks specially chosen for the students by Faculty Leaders from across the school to watch, read and engage with over the Summer holiday in readiness for their GCSE studies in September - we hope that the students enjoy accessing them, that they inspire their learning for the academic year ahead.

Reading is an excellent passport to countless adventures over the holiday. To unwind we have provided our Year 7 and Year 8 students with our Summer Reading Challenges through Classcharts and the bulletin. We also have a range of challenges open to our Year 9 and Year 10 students on the website linked to our KS4 Curriculum Reading List.

Dates for the Year Ahead

Thank you to parents who have provided feedback throughout the year by contacting the Academy, completing surveys or attending the Parents' Forum. Parents has expressed a preference to continue with online parents' evenings, as these save time queuing, however we do understand that it can be frustrating when a teacher is fully booked. To help alleviate this, we are both extending the length of parents' evenings and increasing the number of appointment slots available at any one time.

As economical in terms of time, as online parents' evenings are, we recognise that they are no substitute visiting the Academy in person, especially for Year 7 and 8 parents who haven't had the chance to do this over the last two years. Therefore, as well as parents' evenings, we will be holding parent/carer events next year. These will be an opportunity to visit the Academy, meet staff and answer any queries you may have. The main dates for these are:

Wednesday 28 th September	Year 11 Readiness Evening
Monday 3 rd October	Year 7 settling in Evening
Wednesday 12 th October	Parent Reading Workshop
Wednesday 1 st February	Year 8 'Future Aspirations' Evening
Thursday 19 th January	Year 9 Options Evening
Wednesday 15 th February	Year 10 Readiness for Mocks

Term Dates 2022-2023

Term 1

- Monday 5th September and Tuesday 6th September – Teacher Training Days
- Wednesday 7th September – Friday 21st October
- Monday 31st October – Tuesday 20th December

Term 2

- Wednesday 4th January – Teacher Training Day
- Thursday 5th January – Friday 17th February
- Monday 27th February – Friday 31st March

Term 3

- Monday 17th April – Friday 26th May
- Monday 5th June – Thursday 20th July

Optional Trips and Visits 2022-23

We are excited to now share with you the trips currently planned for 2022-2023. We appreciate how important it is for parents/carers to be aware of the choice of visits and trips, so that you can select those you may wish your child to participate in. Please see the Parent Bulletin this week for further details.

Uniform

A high standard of presentation is expected of all students and school uniform must be worn at all times by students in Years 7 to 11. Pastoral staff monitor uniform as students arrive into Biddick Academy every morning, Form Tutors also conduct a uniform and equipment check each day during Tutor Group time.

Further detailed information about our uniform policy can be found in the parents' section, 'uniform and equipment' at biddickacademy.com

Some key reminders:

- Students are not allowed to wear leggings as part of their school uniform (unless they have a sensory need as identified in their Student Overview). Students can either choose to wear the Biddick Academy skirt, or wear grey trousers. Please do not allow your child to wear leggings (aside from PE lessons).
- No false / gel or acrylic nails – students will be required to have them removed.
- One discreet stud in each ear is permitted – excess earrings will have to be removed Body piercing is unacceptable and must be removed.
- Every student needs to bring an appropriately sized school bag every day.

We understand that at times there can be issues with uniform that are entirely outside of parental control. Our aim will always be to work with parents when this occurs. Where a student falls short of our high expectations of presentation, we would ask parents/carers to support the Academy and work together to reach a positive conclusion.

Parents and carers can order school uniform from our supplier Michael Seghal via their website or their shop in Newcastle <https://www.michaelseghal.co.uk/schools/biddick-academy/>

Biddick Academy branded PE Kit is purchased directly from Biddick Academy. Parents will be notified of the dates that branded PE Kit will be available to purchase in the summer break 2022.

Also, I hope you are aware of our recycled uniform shop. We are always seeking pre-loved donations for this all year round and if you would like to make use of the shop, please contact Mrs Dickson to check if we have the sizes you need - dickson.s@biddickacademy.com

First Day of Term Arrangements

All students will return to Biddick Academy on **Wednesday 7th September at 8:30am**. Students should not arrive to Biddick Academy before 8.00am, as they will be unsupervised. From 8.00am any student, in any year group can attend our Bagel Bar, situated in The Café, for a free breakfast.

All students will spend Tutor Group, Period 1 and Period 2 on Wednesday 7th September with their Form Tutor before accessing their new timetable from Period 3 onwards. During Tutor Group, students will reflect on The Biddick Way, receive their new timetables and ensure they are ready for the new academic year.

The Biddick Way

Value	What it means to us
Respect	We value ourselves, others and our environment by treating people with dignity and by being thoughtful.
Equality	We show pride in our diversity by celebrating difference across all aspects of our community.
Commitment	We strive to always persevere by facing challenges with courage and determination.
Excellence	We aspire to be the best version of ourselves by having the ambition to reach our full potential.
Integrity	We do the right thing because it is correct to do so. We do this by holding ourselves to the highest moral standards all the time.

Staffing Update

At this time of year, we say goodbye to members of staff who are retiring or moving on to new posts; we wish Mrs Egdell, Mr Coles, Mrs Fenwick, Mr McKenzie, Mrs Roberts, Miss Wighton and Miss Smith from the teaching staff and Mrs Jeffrey and Mrs Petrie from the support staff good luck in their future endeavours.

I am delighted to say that we have appointed a number of highly skilled, specialist teachers in a variety of subject areas who I am sure will be an asset to the Academy.

	Post
Miss C. Jeffries	Maths Lead Practitioner
Mrs A. Mutton	Deputy SENDCo
Mr M. Davison	Science Teacher
Miss B. Walker	English Teacher
Miss R. Matthews	Dance/PE Teacher
Mr L. Rossiter	Student Support Assistant
Miss L. Thrower	Student Support Assistant
Miss N. Hufton	Student Support Assistant
Mr J. O'Byrne	Student Support Assistant
Mr T. Ball	Site Supervisor
Mrs L. Maddison	Student Office Manager
Mrs A. Lister	Exams and Data Officer
Mr S. Aughton	Teacher of Maths (maternity cover)
Mr A. Cunningham	Teacher of RE (maternity cover)

I hope that you have a relaxed and restful break over the summer holidays and look forward to welcoming your son/daughter back on Wednesday 7th September.

Yours faithfully,



Miss K. Morris
Headteacher