

Message from the Head Teacher:

We held our Open Evening last night and were delighted to see so many families from our local community attending. There was a real buzz around the school. We are so very proud of all the children who took part and helped us on the night.

A few parents have queried the police presence around the academy in recent weeks. We have a strong working relationship with lots of external agencies, including the police, as part of our ongoing community outreach work. Sometimes they ask if they can have an additional police presence around the school at the start and finish of the day, due to issues in the community. We will also be inviting our PCSO's to have lunch with some of our students to foster positive relationships with our students. This is all a normal part of our community outreach work, but the pandemic had put a stop to everything over the last 18 months. We are delighted that such activities and initiatives can now return.

Thoughts for the Weeks Ahead and PSHE Topics:

Week commencing 27th September: "Sport is a universal language, building more bridges between people than anything else I can think of." *Sebastian Coe, Former Track and Field Athlete*

Week commencing 4th October: "The Study of Geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exist across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together." *Barack Obama 44th US President*

Year 7 students will be covering:

- Dreams and goals.
- Online safety.
- Rules and fairness.
- Personal beliefs.

Year 8 will be covering:

- Dreams and goals.
- Online safety.
- Laws and the justice system.
- Identity and beliefs.

Year 9 will be covering:

- Identity and beliefs.
- Dreams and goals.

Year 10 will be covering:

- First aid.
- Parliamentary democracy.

Year 11 will be covering:

- Savings and interest.
- Parliamentary democracy.

LEAD:

Form of the fortnight: Top form for reward points goes to Mr Vizma's form - 7O. Congratulations and well done for being the form of the fortnight

Star of the fortnight: Tylar L-A in 9N - for exceptional effort, applying himself in learning and leading by example. Well done!

EMPOWER:

Form of the fortnight: 7B – a fantastic start at NBA with a flawless entrance to House assembly.

Star of the fortnight: Oscar W in 9O – for being kind and considerate to others. Maddison M in 10E- an amazing start to the year. Well done for being a positive role model for younger students.

ACHIEVE:

Form of the fortnight: 10B for amassing the most positive points across the whole academy. Fantastic!

Star of the fortnight: Connor S in 7A – for being a model student, always polite and smiling and accumulating lots of positive points. Well done!

DRIVE:

Form of the fortnight: 7J – for having the highest positive points in Drive House. Well done 7J - keep it up!!

Star of the fortnight: Georgia E - who has made an amazing start to the year. Well done Georgia - keep up the amazing work.

EXCEL:

Form of the fortnight: Year 10 - for achieving the highest number of points on the attitude to learning tracker for Excel House.

Star of the fortnight: Janai C-F – who has made an excellent start this academic year. She has had a positive attitude each day and has offered her support to our other students.

Quality of Education:

We are delighted this academic year to have launched a new programme of daily reading for all of our students. At NBA, we believe very passionately in the right of every student to experience a broad range of powerful literature during their five years with us, and staff from each curriculum area in school have worked to create a programme of 'reading for pleasure' built upon books which we believe students simply **must** have experienced before they leave NBA. In addition to creating the opportunity to hear great stories read aloud, we know that being read to every day has been proven to correlate with significantly improved academic outcomes. We are so excited to be enjoying daily reading with our tutor groups, because we know that 'LEADers are readers'.

Parent Forum:

A reminder about our Parent Forum relaunch this year:

The remit for the Forum is to work with us on raising money for equipment, charity fundraising (such as the dedication of the Performing Arts space to the memory of Andy Price) and to work with us on any issues raised by parents.

It will be represented by two parents per year group and we invite interested parties to send over an expression of interest to janebailey@noelbakeracademy.co.uk. Please note that spaces are limited, so if we receive more than two parents from each year wanting to be on the forum we will put this to a parental vote. Only successful representatives will be invited to attend the meetings and they will feed back relevant information to other parents via whatever medium is agreed. One meeting will be held per half term, normally on a Thursday evening from 4pm until 5.15pm.

Attendance Matters:

It has been amazing to see how high our attendance figures are this academic year after such an unprecedented year of Covid-19! Please ensure that your child attends school every day and on time, so they are able to access the knowledge rich curriculum that they are entitled to. Good attendance is crucial to the future educational success of your child.

Behaviour:

Well done to all students for a positive start back and their engagement with our new routines.

Ties: House update - firstly we would like to apologise for the house ties. Unfortunately, they have not turned out the way we had hoped. As a result we have ordered a brand new tie for all students. This will be a plain tie with no braid. They are due to arrive by the end of the autumn term.

Lanyards: In addition, students will be issued with a lanyard in their House colours. **This will be an important part of the school uniform and all students will be expected to wear it around their neck to identify their House.** Attached to the lanyard will be a plastic wallet which will contain their QR code in for use in the canteen to purchase food and drink. These lanyards will be distributed to students on Monday 27th September 2021. If a child loses a QR code they must report this to their Head of House immediately.

Dates for your Diary:

Christmas end of term – please note that we now break up at lunchtime on Tuesday 21st December. This takes account of the additional bank holiday. The date on the website is being changed.

Facilities Management:

May we remind all parents, carers and visitors to site that they must report to the main reception to sign in when arriving on site. Thank you for your continued support.

Lateral Flow Testing:

A reminder to all parents/carers to continue to carry out and log Lateral Flow Testing twice weekly as requested. This initiative is really important and is continuing to keep everyone safe. You can obtain free kits via the government website.

Lunch Money Accounts:

Thank you for being so patient whilst our new till system has been installed. We have been badly let down by the supplier of the new system who were unable to connect the tills to the Gateway payment app that you use to charge your children's accounts. This meant that for over a week, you could not see what your children were buying and no debits appeared on the account as children bought food and drink.

You have not been charged for items purchased before Friday 10th September. Items bought from 10th September have been charged to lunch money accounts and you should now see these debited along with credits you have made and a corresponding balance. We apologise for the inconvenience this delay has caused.

Safeguarding:

Following on from numerous restrictions, there are concerns at both a local and a national level that '@County Lines' is becoming more prevalent. Below is some information to help you understand what county lines is and how you can safeguard your children.

What is county lines?

County lines is the police term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and market and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone lines or "deal lines".

The gang activity is highly associated with violence, drug dealing and exploitation; having a devastating impact on young people, vulnerable adults and local communities. Gangs will use children and vulnerable people, to move drugs and money, criminally exploiting them (CCE); they will also seek to establish a base in target locations, typically taking over the homes of local vulnerable adults by force or coercion – this is referred to as 'cuckooing'.

County lines is a major, cross-cutting issue involving and linking into:

- Drugs.
- Violence/weapons.
- Gang affiliation.
- Criminal and sexual exploitation.
- Modern slavery.
- Missing/trafficked.
- Safeguarding risks.

Who is vulnerable to county lines exploitation?

The national picture continues to develop but there are recorded cases of:

- Children as young as 10 years old being exploited to courier drugs out of their local area.
- Both males and females being involved: average age = 13-17 years old.
- Gangs targeting children not of the 'stereotype', perceived as likely to evade police detection.
- Increased use of social media to make initial contact with children: 'grooming'.

Safeguarding (continued):

Signs to look out for:

Young people involved in county lines may exhibit some of the signs listed below, either as a member or as an associate of a gang dealing drugs. Any sudden changes in their lifestyle should be discussed with them.

- Persistently going missing from school or home and/or being found out-of-area.
- Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes, or mobile phones.
- Excessive receipt of texts/phone calls.
- Relationships with controlling/older individuals or groups.
- Leaving home/care without explanation.
- Suspicion of physical assault/unexplained injuries.
- Carrying weapons.
- Significant decline in school results/performance.
- Gang association or isolation from peers or social networks.
- Self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being.

What to do if you are concerned:

If you have any worries or concerns, please contact our safeguarding team.

If you believe a person is in immediate risk of harm, you should contact police.