

Message from the Head Teacher:

This week, following feedback from our Student Voice, which indicated that our children wanted a more orderly system of movement around the Academy, we have been working with students on implementing a more structured way of walking around the building, keeping to the left and walking purposefully from lesson to lesson. I am aware that there are some rumours circulating that children are expected to keep their shoulder to the wall and walk in silence, please be assured that this is not the case. Children are free to talk to each other and staff as they move around the building, and whilst we will be reminding children to keep left to avoid congestion, it is not an expectation that they touch the wall as they walk.

We have high expectations of our students and we do expect them to adhere to our classroom routines, we expect all staff to model courtesy, manners and respect in their interactions with students and expect the same in return from our young people.

I am also aware that there is a rumour circulating that I am leaving Noel Baker and am being replaced by someone who has visited the school. This is not the case. I am very proud to be the Head Teacher of Noel Baker Academy and am beyond proud of our wonderful students, their commitment to their studies and the way in which they interact with visiting professionals and staff. We have worked hard as a community to improve our school and will continue to do so. I would like to thank those parents I have spoken to this week in feedback phone calls.

Moving forward, and in line with recent communications from public health regarding Covid-19, visitors to the Academy will be limited to parental meetings and essential visitors from key organisations such as social care and health professionals only.

I look forward to seeing all the children after half term and wish you all a lovely break.

Borrowed School Uniform:

Over the last few weeks, we have sent out over 100 school communications to parents to remind them to send borrowed items back into school, but only received about 20 returned items of clothing. Items are borrowed daily but are mostly never returned and our stock is now running low. Please make a point of checking your child's bag/room and returning anything your child has borrowed as a matter of urgency. Thank you for your help.

Attendance Matters:

Many thanks for your support in ensuring that your child arrives to school on time and every day. Well done to Year 7 and ACHIEVE House who have the best attendance so far! For your information, if your child has been absent from school for 3 days or more this term (not including any Covid related illness) they are most likely to have an attendance of 90% or under. This is classed as a Persistent Absence (PA). Of course, your child's attendance and this figure will increase as we enter into our second half term, so please ensure that they come to school punctually every day so their attendance percentage can increase and they are able to access all the knowledge-rich learning that they are entitled to.

Behaviour:

Following the re-boot of our routines and high standards I would like to thank all students for being on board with this. The focus has been around the use of STEPS ('Sir' or 'Miss' every time; 'Thank you' every time; 'Excuse me' every time; 'Please' every time and 'Smile' every time. This routine has been further embedded to ensure a culture of mutual respect between staff and students, which will help our students to build and maintain positive relationships both now and in their adult life.

LEAD:

Form of the fortnight: 7O - for top reward points and quality learning.

Star of the fortnight: Cian M in 7O - for excellent achievements in lesson and learning.

EMPOWER:

Form of the fortnight: 7L – for the best attendance.

Star of the fortnight: Sophie L in 7O - for the most reward points – well done Sophie!

ACHIEVE:

Form of the fortnight: 8B – For collecting lots of positive points throughout the fortnight ☺

Star of the fortnight: Evelyn H 9L – For being a fantastic ambassador for her house and leading by example in every way. Well done! ☺

DRIVE:

Form of the fortnight: 7J - for achieving the highest positive points in DRIVE. Well done 7J - keep up the amazing work!!

Star of the fortnight: Todd C for achieving the highest positive points in DRIVE - well done Todd!!

EXCEL:

Year group of the fortnight: Year 8 – for achieving the highest total of reward points and praise postcards. Well done year 8!

Star of the fortnight: Jacob K (Year 8) - for 100% attendance and Jacob has achieved the highest amount of praise postcards and achievement points. Well done Jacob!

Quality of Education:

Homework is a vital aspect of education at NBA. We know that for learning to take place, there must be a change in the long-term memory, but that these changes do not occur by chance or accident. To embed knowledge, and to maintain it, in our long-term memory, we must proactively retrieve and rehearse that knowledge over and over again.

Noel-Baker homework is designed to facilitate this retrieval and rehearsal of knowledge, in order to ensure that valuable knowledge is transferred to our long-term memory.

That's why, at NBA, we say that 'Practice Makes Permanent'.

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.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. We are therefore asking all parents to continue testing their children to help us to continue to provide a normal education for our students and keep the school open.

Thoughts for the Weeks Ahead and PSHE Topics:

Week commencing 1st November: 'Don't count the days, make the days count' - *Muhammad Ali, Professional Boxer.*

Week commencing 8th November: 'Courage is not being afraid, it's being afraid and doing it anyway' - *Gina Bianchi, Investor.*

Year 7 will be covering:

Emergency first aid.
Being me.
Remembrance.

Year 8 will be covering:

Dreams and goals.
Identity and beliefs.
Remembrance.

Year 9 will be covering:

Being me.
Dreams and goals.
Remembrance.

Year 10 will be covering:

Dreams and goals.
Savings and interest.
Remembrance.

Year 11 will be covering:

Being me.
Dreams and goals.
Remembrance.

Parents' Forum:

The Parents' Forum is made up of a group of parents who work with the Deputy Head Teacher to support the Academy by doing the following:

- Feeding back to the Academy regarding what we're doing well, areas to develop and any specific community issues they feel the school should be aware of (or be more involved in).
- Working alongside us to develop community out-reach work.
- Shaping the Academy's extra-curricular and parental support offer.
- Feeding back to parents via the Parent Forum social media platforms.

The Forum is made up of two parents from each year group who meet once a half term with the Deputy Head Teacher and members of the Senior Team.

If you are interested in becoming a Parent Forum member, please email Jane Bailey (PA to the Head Teacher) on janebailey@noelbakeracademy.co.uk.

Safeguarding:

With Halloween and Bonfire Night approaching, we would like to take this opportunity to remind our community to stay safe.

Halloween

If children are planning to go out trick or treating, please make sure they follow some basic rules to keep them safe:

- If you are going trick or treating, make sure you go with an adult and your parent or carer knows where you are going and when to expect you back.
- Respect posters asking you not to trick or treat at someone's house.
- Don't go trick or treating alone - stay with your group

Bonfire night - staying safe with fireworks

Safety information is also available from RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents).

If you are having a firework party at home, you can make the occasion fun and safe for everyone by following the Firework Code.

Did you know?

- It is against the law to carry fireworks in public if you're under 18.
- Fireworks must not be sold to anyone who is under 18.
- It is an offence to let fireworks off during night hours (11pm to 7am), except on Bonfire Night (midnight), Diwali, New Year's Eve, and Chinese New Year (1am).
- It is an offence under the Explosives Act 1875 to tamper with or modify fireworks.

Facilities Management:

After some teething problems, the new catering till system is now working for almost all children. Using the School Gateway App, parents and carers can credit their child's Lunch Money Account, see the balance on the account and view a transaction history. There are a small number of families we are working with directly to resolve outstanding issues.