

Message from the Head Teacher:

On Thursday, the entire school marked Remembrance Day. The Act of Remembrance consisted of a recital of the poem 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae, the playing of The Last Post when the flags were lowered, followed by a two minute silence to respect and remember the fallen. I am extremely proud of each and every one of our students who conducted themselves with due respect, in keeping with the occasion. Thanks in particular, to those students who are members of the Cadets, Scouts and Guides who represented their various organisations in uniform, and to our Student Voice who had a leadership role at the event.



Attendance Matters:

As you are aware, due to the recent global pandemic, students have lost many face to face days of learning at Noel-Baker Academy. This averages out at 44 days per student. Therefore, it is absolutely vital for your child's wellbeing and academic development that you ensure your child attends school every day. Of course, if your child has symptoms or receives a positive PCR test they must remain at home for the appropriate period (we will support your child at this time). It is also important that you are aware that if your child has had 5 days off within the first half term they are classed as 'PA' (Persistent Absentee). This means that your child's attendance is 90% or below, which is a huge concern, but we are here to support you and your family so your child's attendance improves.

Please be rest assured that although a confirmed CV-19 case does affect your child's attendance record, we are aware of the circumstance of absence so your child WILL NOT be penalised!

Please email attendance@noelbakeracademy.co.uk if you have any queries. We are here to support you in ensuring that your child attends school every day. #AttendanceMatters

Behaviour:

Uniform: A gentle reminder regarding our expectations around uniform. Students attending the Academy must wear the correct uniform. The uniform expectations are clearly set out on our website, (see link):

<https://www.noelbakeracademy.co.uk/uniform/>

Hooded tops are allowed on non PE days, but these should be worn underneath blazers, and ties should still be worn.

Bike Helmets: If students choose to come to school on a bike or manual scooter, they **MUST** wear a bike helmet. Also, an increasing number of students are coming to school with a bike helmet stuffed at the bottom of their bags, which isn't really the point of the exercise – we are trying to keep our students safe! Students who do not wear a helmet will have their bike or scooter locked up and you will be contacted to come and collect it. They will then be banned from using their bike or scooter until the end of term.

LEAD:

Form of the fortnight: 8N - for having excellent attendance 94.5% and engagement in school community.

Star of the fortnight: Macey E (8N) - for top reward point and engagement in learning.

EMPOWER:

Form of the fortnight: 9O – for having the best attendance. Well done and keep up the good work!

Star of the fortnight: Elena W – for having the most positive points – great work Elena!

ACHIEVE:

Form of the fortnight: 7A – for impeccable conduct throughout our Remembrance Day service.

Star of the fortnight: Connor S – for having the highest attendance in the House. Well done Connor!

DRIVE:

Form of the fortnight: 9A – for amazing attendance this week – keep up the great work!

Star of the fortnight: Liam D – for having the highest attendance in the House. Well done Liam!

EXCEL:

Year group of the fortnight: Year 10 - for achieving the highest number of points for their attitude and learning in ACE.

Star of the fortnight: Levi P (Year 10) - for achieving the highest number of positive behaviour points and teaching other students how to play chess.

Quality of Education:

With the commencement of the Year 11 mock examinations period on Monday, November 22nd, we would like to remind all of our students that learning is most efficient when we take a 'little and often' approach. To ensure that knowledge is moved into our long-term memory, regular rehearsal and retrieval is far more effective than last-minute cramming. Activities such as quizzing your child on key knowledge can be really helpful to facilitate rehearsal and retrieval, as are short periods of revision of around 20-30 minutes followed by a short break. We also advise against staying up late to revise – we know that students perform at their best when they are well-rested.

We wish our students every success in their mock examinations and we are very proud of the effort and hard work that they are putting in as they prepare.

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 15th November: 'If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion'. *Lhamo Thondup, (14th Dalai Lama)*.

Week commencing 22nd November: 'As a civilised society, we have a duty to support those among us who are vulnerable and in need'. *Justin Welby, (Archbishop of Canterbury)*.

Year 7 will be covering:

Being me.
Personal beliefs.
Emergency first aid.

Year 8 will be covering:

Identity and beliefs.
Law and the justice system.

Year 9 will be covering:

Identity and beliefs.
Dreams and goals.

Year 10 will be covering:

Savings.
Parliamentary democracy.

Year 11 will be covering:

Savings.
Dreams and goals.

Facilities Management:

Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday 15th December for all year groups and houses. Please see menu at the end of this bulletin.

Safeguarding:

For parents of teens, sexting can be a big concern: Access to the internet and smartphone devices has changed the nature of how people communicate with each other. One of these changes is the sending of provocative or sexual photos, messages or videos, or what has become commonly known as “sexting” or what teens refer to as “sending nudes”.

While sharing suggestive images or text messages can appear as innocent fun to some young people, sexting can have serious social and legal consequences.

The making, taking, permitting to be taken, showing, possession and/or distribution of indecent images of minors is a criminal offence; so you need to be very careful about how you handle an incident if it arises.

Unfortunately, when self-created images are shared non-consensually, the repercussions can seriously undermine the wellbeing of children in your care. Malicious sharing can be a form of cyberbullying, while abusive sharing could indicate a child protection concern.

Why Do Teens Sext?

Explicit images can be shared in the context of an intimate relationship but also in different scenarios. People share intimate content as a way of attracting attention or flirting with potential romantic interests. Peer pressure can be a contributory factor in some young people’s sexting. In some cases vulnerable young people or those with weaker digital skills, might create intimate content unbeknownst to themselves when they forget to turn off cameras. In other, more worrying cases, young people can be coerced, forced or tricked into creating explicit images of themselves.

It can be very distressing when explicit self-created images, initially exchanged in confidence, are shared without consent with a wider audience. Children who are the victims of non-consensual sharing (often referred to as revenge porn; a practice where sexting content is maliciously distributed, without consent, to gain revenge and cause public humiliation) or sextortion (a form of extortion where the criminal threatens to distribute explicit content of the victim unless the victim pays a sum of money or sends more explicit content) might suffer from depression or anxiety and could be in immediate danger.

What Does the Law Say?

The Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998 can come into effect if someone under 17 creates, shares or even just receives a sexually explicit image.

What Images are Illegal?

Any image that shows a child engaged in sexual activity, or that focuses on the genital region of a child is sexually explicit and illegal. It is less clear whether provocative content (eg. a topless picture) is illegal. Images that suggest a child is available for sexual exploitation are illegal. Ultimately only a court could decide if a topless picture could be considered illegal.

Creating or sharing explicit images of young people can result in harsh punishments. Penalties include jail time and a fine. Offenders are also automatically added to the sex offenders register for at least 2 ½ years and there are no exceptions!

Sharing someone’s nude selfies without consent or permission is illegal, even if the people involved are adults. Under data protection law your personal info, including your image, cannot be published without your consent. For more information go to: webwise.ie/talking-to-your-teen-about-sexting.

Christmas Lunch Menu

15th December

Roast Turkey, Stuffing & Pigs in Blankets
Roast Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes
Brussels, Carrots & Peas
Turkey Gravy

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Christmas Pudding

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Chocolate Fudge Sponge with Chocolate Sauce

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Vegetarian Option Available

£2.45

