

Message from the Head Teacher:

We have been delighted to welcome all students back to the academy following the Christmas break. Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support with regards to LFT testing and CV-19 preventative measures. Please note that in line with government announcements face masks are no longer compulsory in lessons but must be worn in communal areas (on corridors) until the 27th January. We will continue to monitor the number of positive cases in school and will keep parents and carers updated should further measures be required in the future. Restrictions to visits to site remain in place and so if you would like to speak to or meet with a member of staff please phone the academy directly or email enquiries@noelbakeracademy.co.uk to organise a call back or face to face meeting.

Ann Donaghy
(Headteacher)

Attendance Matters:

Morning traffic: We are aware that there have been quite a number of students who have arrived late to school due to road closures and roadworks. If they are affecting your child's punctuality to school please ensure that they leave earlier to enable them to be at school in time for roll call.

Sickness absence: If your child has been absent from school due to sickness, they are able to return the following day.

Many, many thanks for your continued support with the attendance team.

Quality of Education:

Many of us make resolutions at the start of a new year, but anecdotal evidence suggests that almost two-thirds of us will break them before the end of January. Significant, big goals can be daunting, and when progress is slow, it can be easy to lose heart and abandon our efforts. So, in a new year and new term, encourage your child to make small, manageable changes to support their learning. If they rarely read, commit to 5 minutes an evening to begin with, for example. Whether it be reading, engaging with homework, knowledge retrieval practice, mindfulness activities or exercise, little changes over time can yield great results.

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.

LEAD:

Form of the fortnight: 7O for having the most consistently high reward point achievers in LEAD

Star of the fortnight: Connor Littlewood in 7O for excellent achievement and top reward points

EMPOWER:

Form of the fortnight: 9O for best attendance this week

Star of the fortnight: 7B Shanade Carter for most rewarded student

9O Seth Broadhurst-Barker most improved student

ACHIEVE:

Form of the fortnight: 7K – Miss Brown - for always lining up beautifully for Roll Call.

Star of the fortnight: Maanavi Archya – For always being a bright and friendly face in the morning

DRIVE:

Form of the fortnight: 9B for achieving the highest attendance within Drive House Well done 9B keep up the amazing work!!

Star of the fortnight: Madiha Hussain for achieving the highest rewards points within Drive House Well done Madiha keep up the amazing work!!

EXCEL:

Year group of the fortnight: Year 10's. Positive start back and attitude in lessons has been great.

Star of the fortnight: Levi Plaxton and Brian Wheway. Great positive attitude towards learning every day and the willingness to succeed and improve.

Thoughts for the Weeks Ahead and PSHE Topics:

Week commencing 24th January: 'Not to know is bad, not to wish to know is worse.' Nigerian Proverb

Week commencing 31st January: 'The essence of knowledge is, having it, to apply it; not having it, to confess your ignorance.' Confucius, Chinese Teacher

Year 7 will be covering:

Dreams and goals

Year 8 will be covering:

Respect for all

Celebrating difference

Year 9 will be covering:

Celebrating difference

Law and the justice system

Year 10 will be covering:

Celebrating difference

Savings

Year 11 will be covering:

Parliamentary democracy

Jobs for the future

Safeguarding:

E-Safety: TikTok app safety – What parents need to know

As you will probably be aware, TikTok has become one of the most popular social media apps since it exploded on to the market in 2017. Whilst it is incredibly popular with teenagers, parents may not be aware of the safety issues involved with this app and the ways in which parents and teenagers can take steps to ensure that what they see is appropriate. With that in mind, the Internet Matters website has a really helpful guide to what parents should know. It can be found at: <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/>

Facilities Management:

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who ensure their child's lunch money account is in credit before their child tries to buy any items from the canteen. To help all parents do this we have introduced a notification reminder on the Gateway App that will inform you if your balance is zero.

Behaviour:

Uniform expectations – Since our return after Christmas we are continuing to maintain our high standards set in relation to uniform and expectations.

Can I please draw your attention to the following:

Piercings

No other jewellery is permitted; if students have any other visible piercings or retainers these must be removed during the school day. Failure to do so will result in the Academy making contact with the parents/carers to resolve the issue. We may also send students home to change to rectify any issues or isolate students if their uniform is not appropriate or does not adhere to our uniform policy.

Make up

Students may wear a small amount of discreet make up in natural colours, but the academy may ask students to remove any make up staff consider inappropriate.

False nails

False nails are allowed within the Academy but they must be less than 5mm over the nail in order to be an appropriate length, this is due to health and safety reasons.

Hair colour

Any hair accessories should be small and plain coloured only. Shaved emblems or lines, unnatural colour dyes are not allowed. Hair extensions / braids of natural colour are deemed acceptable.

If you are unsure whether a hairstyle or piercing meets our uniform guide, please contact Mr Mark Taylor, Assistant Head teacher for guidance before any treatment.

Rewards – Last half term was an exceptional half term for rewards. We issued 55,000 rewards from October to Christmas which is outstanding. Congratulations to all the students who received the positive rewards. Keep up the great work.

Miscellaneous:

WANTED – NEW PARENT GOVERNOR

We are currently looking for a new Parent Governor and would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- an interest in the performance of the school
- a desire to contribute to and represent the community
- an open and enquiring mind
- the ability to look at issues objectively
- the confidence to ask questions and join in debate
- a willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- the ability to work well with others
- time to spare
- a child or children currently attending the School

If you match the above description, you may be the very person to become a Parent Governor at Noel-Baker Secondary Academy. Everyone has something to offer and we want people from as many backgrounds and with as wide a range of interests as possible.

If you are interested...please contact Debbie Broadhurst, Head Teacher's PA on enquiries@noelbaker.co.uk and we will send you an expression of interest form and more details. Depending on the number of applications, there may be an election process. Closing date for completed applications - 1st December 2020.