

## Message from the Head Teacher:

As you all know we've had a number of visitors to the academy in recent weeks. I know that parents, staff and students are keen to find out what the visitors had to say about the academy and its journey over the last four years. As soon as we have the report we will share it with parents and students.

Please be aware that after the Easter break and due to the weather starting to improve, we shall be reverting to the students only being able to wear their school hoodies on the days that they have PE, they will not be permitted to wear them with their everyday school uniform under their blazers.

## Attendance Matters:

Many thanks for your support in ensuring that your child(ren) arrive to school promptly every day. Although our attendance rate is not 100% (we need it to be), we are currently higher (on average) than every other state funded secondary school in the country.

If your child is too poorly to attend school, **parents should contact the school on the first and each subsequent day of absence by 8.30am**. If parents do not contact the Academy within 24 hours of an absence, this will be marked as unauthorised and **the student may be referred to Social Care in line with the Academy's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and parents may receive a fixed penalty notice**. It is extremely important that we know that your child is safe and well every day. Many thanks for your continued support. Regards The Attendance Team.

## Quality of Education:

### Why Times Tables matter

Every education minister hates times tables... mostly because they aren't good at recalling them. They tend to be easy prey for TV and radio presenters who are always keen to fire a multiplication at them during an interview.

Make no mistake, though, times tables get used in contexts well beyond simple number. A significant part of advanced number and algebra work relies on good recall of times tables so it really is worth knowing them well.

As Jean Humphreys, Ofsted's education director said recently

"It is really important that children have the tools of arithmetic at their fingertips. Without that it is like **sending a plumber out to do a job without knowing how to use a spanner.**"

Research suggests that the hardest times tables are the 8s and 9s. In a recent survey involving over 200 pupils the hardest multiplication was found to be 6 x 8. So, it makes sense to start by practicing the easy facts (x0, x1, x2, x5, x10) and build on these.

For many pupils, their mobile devices can be a real help here. Apps such as IOS's Times Tables Quiz can offer an interactive practice opportunity – and it is definitely worth the effort.

## LEAD:

**Form of the fortnight:** 9N for best attendance 99% amazing well done all

**Star of the fortnight:** 7E Lewis B for receiving the most reward points well done Lewis

## EMPOWER:

**Form of the fortnight:** 7L for receiving the most reward points congratulations 7L

**Star of the fortnight:** 7H Lillie-may K for the receiving well done Lillie-may

## ACHIEVE:

**Form of the fortnight:** A massive thankyou to Brandon H for his contribution towards our Ukraine collection

**Star of the fortnight:** Well done to 8A for the highest attendance with 96.55 %. Keep it up

## DRIVE:

**Form of the fortnight:** 7P achieved the highest attendance

**Star of the fortnight:** Sarah M from 10K most improved student

## EXCEL:

**Form of the fortnight:** Year 10 ACE for the highest attendance and collective highest strive for 5 reward points

**Star of the fortnight:** Chloe B for achieving the highest amount of points on the attitude to learning tracking document.

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022:** 'Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change'. Stephen Hawking, Theoretical Physicist

**Week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022:** 'Employ your time in improving yourself by other men's writing so that you shall gain easily what others have laboured hard for.' Socrates, Philosopher

**Year 7 will be covering:** Exploitation and knife crime

**Year 8 will be covering:** Different types of health and how to improve that health

**Year 9 will be covering:** Protected Characteristics and the Equality Act 2010

**Year 10 will be covering:** Taking the Leap - skills for the future such as growth mindset, time management, setting goals

**Year 11 will be covering:** Taking the Leap – skills for the future such as resilience, dealing with failure, increasing self esteem

## Safeguarding:

Ukraine crisis

The Children's Commissioner for England has published a blog advising that we should not hide what is happening in the Ukraine from children and young people, but support children in understanding it. To support parent in this, Childline has published content to support children and young people who may be worried about the crisis.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-involved/articles/worrying-about-russia-ukraine/>

## Behaviour:

I would like to congratulate amazing students for making a positive start this half term. Last half term we celebrated with a rewards pizza lunch. Over 200 students were involved as well as our senior leadership team sending letters to a number of our fabulous students.

This half term will see an even bigger celebration in the last week of term. We aim to reward the successes of more students making positive choices.

**Students - Please continue to SLANT in lessons SHAPING your response and using STEPS to show mutual respect with all our NBA community.**

## Facilities Management:

To ensure your child receives their lunch in a timely manner, could you please make sure that your child has their QR Code with them every day and that their lunch account has been topped up. This will help us serve students more quickly enabling them to have more time to eat their lunch.