

17th July 2023

Dear Families

End of Term Update

As we approach the end of this school year, I wanted to write and thank you for your continuing support of your child/ren and of the academy.

The summer term is always a busy one, particularly in terms of GCSEs and other assessments. Some of the term's highlights have been the Year 11 Leavers event, which went fantastically well; our Year 10 students out on work experience for a week; we've welcomed the new students who will join us in September in Year 7 and we've had Sports Day plus numerous educational trips and visits. All in all, it's been an eventful and successful end to the year.

End of Term Arrangements

The academy finishes as it did last year at 12:30pm on Friday 21st July 2023.

Staff Leavers

As is usual at this time of year, we have a small number of staff leaving us, either to pursue new ventures or to retire. This year, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Arthur – Assistant Headteacher, Mr Heppolette – Teacher of R.E., Mr Hirst – Head of Design Technology Department and Mrs Honess – Teacher of Music. Between them, these staff have served the students of Newhouse Academy for more than 60 years! One of the academy's Teaching Assistants, Mr Humphreys is also leaving us to return to University and undertake Teacher Training. They all leave with our warmest wishes.

Mrs Allen – Teacher of Art, also leaves us temporarily, to have her baby and we wish her and her family much joy in the coming months.

Our People

Year group awards ceremonies will be on the last two days (20th and 21st July). This is a great time of the year as we get to celebrate those students who have truly shown our values as "Our People". The "Our People" badge will be awarded along with our values badges to those students who have been nominated and chosen by the Heads of Year and staff at Newhouse academy.

Uniform and equipment expectations from September

As we approach the end of another school year, I wanted to take the opportunity to communicate our school uniform policy with you so that you have the summer holidays to make any necessary adjustments or purchases to ensure that your child returns to Newhouse Academy in the Autumn Term wearing the correct uniform. Full details of our uniform policy can be found on the academy website using the hyperlink <https://newhouseacademy.co.uk/uniform-and-equipment/>

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Academy sponsor Hollingworth Learning Trust - a charitable company limited by and registered in England and Wales with company number 8314692 Suite 1, Floor 3, Hafley Court, Buckley Road, Rochdale, OL12 9DJ

There has been one key change to the uniform policy. From the start of term in September 2023, school skirts must be worn no shorter than 3 inches (7.5cm) above the knee. Short, tight or pencil skirts are not acceptable. Students who do not agree with the school skirt policy must wear appropriate school trousers instead.

When purchasing items of uniform, please select only those items that comply with the academy's uniform policy. As always, students arriving to school in items of clothing that are not deemed acceptable or are contrary to the uniform policy will be required to change into replacement uniform and will be sanctioned if they refuse.

Please could I also urge you to also check the academy policy on footwear, jewellery and make-up. At this time of the year, footwear retailers will try to encourage families to buy what they describe as 'school shoes' when in reality many of these are not shoes at all. Trainer-type footwear, similar to the Adidas 'Stan Smith', the Nike Air Force 1, Vans type trainers and some styles of Kickers (often with a flat, trainer type rubber sole), as shown on the school website, are not acceptable to be worn as school shoes.

Regarding jewellery and make-up, false nails are not allowed and students must only wear one pair of stud earrings (nose and facial piercings are not allowed). We will not accept the excuse when students return in September that piercings or nails were done during the school holidays and cannot be removed.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the academy's uniform policy, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year before the end of term or prior to buying anything you are unsure about.

Timings of the School Day from September 2023

Due to the Department for Education's pledge that all mainstream, state-funded schools should provide a school week of at least 32.5 hours by September 2023, our school day, from September will be as follows:

Year Group	Academy Opens	Form Time	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3			Period 4	Period 5			Period 6
Y7	8.15am students must be in their form rooms by 8.20am	8.20am to 8.50am	8.50am to 9.40am	9.40am to 10.30am	10.30 to 10.55	10.55 to 11.15	11.15 to 11.40	11.40am to 12.30pm	12.30 to 12.55	12.55 to 1.20	1.20 to 1.45	1.45pm to 2.45 pm
Y8					10.30 to 10.50	10.50 to 11.40			12.30 to 12.55	12.55 to 1.45		
Y9					10.30 to 10.50	10.50 to 11.40			12.30 to 12.55	12.55 to 1.45		
Y10					10.30 to 11.20		11.20 to 11.40		12.30 to 1.20		1.20 to 1.45	
Y11					10.30 to 11.20		11.20 to 11.40		12.30 to 1.20		1.20 to 1.45	
					Includes break time				Includes lunch time			

School bus times will be changed to fit in with the new academy day.

After-school Activities

Details of the Academy's after-school activities will be published in September 2023.

Diary dates for the Autumn Term

Please be aware of the following, key dates, for the Autumn Term:

Date	Event
Monday 4 th September	INSET – students not required to attend
Tuesday 5 th September	Year 7 Day – Year 7 students only to attend
Wednesday 6 th September	School opens fully, all students to attend
Wednesday 27 th September	Open Evening – welcoming prospective families with children in years 5 and 6
Thursday 5 th October	Year 7 families evening to meet the Form Tutor
Friday 20 th October	School closes for half term
Monday 30 th October	School opens following half term
Monday 13 th November	Year 11 formal assessments start (for 2 weeks)
Thursday 23 rd November	Year 9 families evening
Monday 27 th November	Moderation day – students not required to attend
Thursday 7 th December	Year 11 families evening
Friday 22 nd December	School closes for the Christmas holiday

Building Work for new school facilities

The construction of the new school building started in February and work is progressing as planned. Piling works and foundations are complete, and the majority of groundwork is also complete. The lift shaft has been installed and the erection of the steel frame of the building has commenced. When we return in September, the steel frame will have been fully installed and interior preparation works will have started.

Wisepay

The school is now 'cashless'. This means that families will need to top up their child's dinner account electronically, either via a web-browser, or by using the Wisepay app. Families will also pay for any trips, uniform, revision guides etc. in the same way.

Help is available at <https://newhouseacademy.co.uk/wisepay/> and if you need any further assistance in setting up an account, please email finance@newhouseacademy.co.uk with your contact email address and the name of your child/ren and a member of staff will contact you as soon as possible.

Free school meal eligibility

If you have had a change in circumstances or are in receipt of a qualifying benefit your child may be entitled to free school meals. To check eligibility and apply for free school meals click on this link: <https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/benefits-money/free-school-meals/2>

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With my very best wishes to you all for an enjoyable summer break.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A Burnham'.

Mr A Burnham
Headteacher