

20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Families

## End of Term Update

As we approach the end of this Autumn Term, I wanted to write with some updates and also to thank you for your continuing support of your child/ren and of the academy.

We returned to school in September with a new Year 7 cohort and were delighted to see that they settled so well. This was followed by a wonderful Open Evening towards the end of the month where we welcomed many prospective families and their children who are currently in Years 5 and 6. The feedback has been very positive and I am delighted that the academy will again be full next year.

Some of the other highlights from this term have been a stronger set of GCSE results from the Class of 2023 and the opportunity to celebrate with them in November. Our current Year 11 team have had a successful season of mock exams and there is a genuine feeling of optimism and improvement across our academy.

As you will know, we had a visit from Ofsted to check on our progress since the last inspection, when we were Siddal Moor. I am unable to share the gradings or report at present as it is being finalised, but what I will say is that progress has been made in all areas and the academy has its first positive categories in 12-16 years. This has been down to the hard work of our kids, staff and your fantastic support as a community. Thank you!

More news on many of the highlights from this term are included in the latest edition of the Our People magazine which can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/ys8ehaa4>

## Update on the building work

If you have been to the academy recently, you will have seen that our new school building is really taking shape. The exterior panels are in place, window panes and frames are well underway and the internal fit-out starts in the new year. The meetings taking place right now are about the interior layout and colour scheme etc., and the building is on track to welcome students in September 2024. Our construction students will also be joining in with some bricklaying in the new year!

## Events during the last week of term

Every day this week, we will hold year-group assemblies where we celebrate the great work that has gone on during this term and reward those students who have shown the values of 'Our People', with certificates and badges.

Continued...

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, we will be having a jumper day. For those who have them, this can be a Christmas jumper day. This was something that our students wanted to do, so they could raise money for a children's charity and each student taking part can donate £1, should they wish. Please ensure that your child wears the rest of their school uniform – school shoes, skirts, shirts and trousers etc. and also brings their PE kit if they have PE on Friday.

School closes for the Christmas holiday at 2.45pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023.

### Diary dates for the Spring Term

The academy re-opens to students at 8.15am on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January. If you need to buy any new uniform items for your child during the Christmas break, please refer to the academy's policy on uniform and equipment, which can be found here:

<https://newhouseacademy.co.uk/uniform-and-equipment/>

Some of the key dates in the Spring Term are as follows:

Date	Event
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Future Foundations Careers Event Year 9 – Pathways Evening
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Year 10 – formal assessments start
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 10 – Families Evening
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes for half term
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	School re-opens
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 8 – Families Evening
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 11 – Formal assessments start
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Moderation Day – school closed to students
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 11 – Photographs
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 11 – Families Evening
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	School closes for the Easter holiday

In closing, I should like to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable break over Christmas-time and a very Happy New Year in 2024.

With my very best wishes



Mr A Burnham  
Headteacher

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