

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the half term is coming to its close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support through what has been a positive start to the new academic year.

We appreciate that the past 18 months have been unusual times for all of us, and our students have demonstrated tremendous resilience. This term we have returned to a more 'normal' way of operating in school, and we are very grateful for all of the efforts our families have made to underpin a positive return to school for our students.

It has been fantastic to celebrate many of the successes our students have achieved so far, and we look forward to continuing this as the year progresses.

New Staff

We have continued to recruit additional staff this half term and are pleased to say that we have made several appointments.

This half term we have welcomed Mrs Cole who has joined our Science Faculty as a Science Technician, and Mrs Okerecke who has joined our Maths Faculty.

Following the half term break we will also be welcoming Mrs Raynor to our English Faculty. Mrs Raynor has many years' experience as a senior leader in school, and will be a fantastic asset to our team of English teachers.

These new colleagues will further strengthen our team and will enable us to provide your child with additional support and learning opportunities.

Uniform

Thank you to everyone that has ensured their children attend school in proper school uniform. It is important that students wear the correct clothing as our uniform helps to put all young people on an equal footing, supports the safeguarding of your children and creates a sense of school community.

As the weather begins to change, can we remind you that those students in the new uniform are permitted to wear a plain grey or blue V-neck jumper underneath their blazers. For those students in the old uniform, plain black sweatshirts are permitted. Students are not permitted to wear their coats during lessons.

If you need any clarification on uniform requirements or are having issues with sourcing school uniform please do contact your child's Head of Year.

Year 11 Mock Exams and Destinations

The next half term is always one of the longest and a busy half term for many year groups.

This half term, students in Year 10 and 11 have already had presentations delivered by the Apollo 6th Form, and next half term they will be hearing from Stephenson College and other providers to learn more about different pathways and apprenticeships at Post 16. The following Open Evenings/Days may also be useful:

The Apollo Sixth Open Evening - 26th October (17:00 – 19:30)
Loughborough College Open Day - 6th November (10:00 – 14:00)
Stephenson College Open Day - 13th November (10:00 – 13:00)

Our Year 11 students will be working towards their mock exams in December, and we have planned a number of different support mechanisms to prepare them for this important period.

- When Year 11 students return from the half term break, we will be speaking to them about what a formal examination is like. It is vital that students follow the externally controlled rules that exist in an exam, as these are in place across the country to make sure that exams remain fair and robust.
- Staff are already teaching students about what to expect in the exam papers and looking at styles of questions, and throughout the next half term we will be continuing to link the learning taking place in lessons to how it can be applied to an exam question and scenario.
- In the week beginning the 8th November, students will be given short sessions in the exam hall to practice answering questions in exam conditions. These questions won't count towards their mock exam grade, but the experience will give students a valuable practise of what it is like sitting in an exam hall, and working under the conditions set out by the exam board.
- On the 9th November we will be inviting Year 11 parents in to school to discuss how you can support your child through Key Stage 4. This will include tips on how to help with revision, online resources that are available, as well as supporting student's health and wellbeing. More information regarding this event will be sent out after the half term break.
- In the week beginning the 15th November, Year 11 students will take part in a number of walking, talking mocks. These are practice mocks where instead of working silently through the paper, teachers lead the class through the paper, working together to understand what is being asked and how best to answer the questions. Again, this will be valuable practice and preparation for the real mock exams.
- The mock exams will then take place starting the 1st December. After the half term break we will be sending out a timetable for the exams.

With the mock exams and preparation, students who have specific requirements and therefore sit their exams in a different venue will be able to replicate this and will not be expected to sit in the exam hall.

Next Half Term

Many of our students are busy rehearsing for the annual Newbridge Pantomime, and this will be performed in December. The cast are already looking and sounding amazing and we will write to you nearer the time regarding further information and ticket bookings.

We also look forward to celebrating more sporting successes, it has been great to see so many students access our sporting extra-curricular provision, and see students represent our school.

We will be updating our social media accounts on a regular basis (Facebook and Twitter), please follow us to receive the regular updates but please be aware that the messaging function for these accounts is not regularly monitored, so please contact the school using the website or by emailing info@newbridgesch.uk

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a restful half term and, we look forward to welcoming all students back after the half term break.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Rowbottom
Co-Heads of The Newbridge School



Mr M Gamble