

Ref: PRC/JYD

22 July 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope this final letter of the academic year reaches you well. Whilst this year has been another tough year I do think we have lots to celebrate. Students have spent more time in the classroom, we're learning to live with covid, we've returned to exams, trips and extra-curricular activities are back up and running and some face to face parents events have also taken place. Personally, I am very much looking forward to the future which will hopefully be like the old normal, but better.

As you know there has been a lot going on recently. Pupils sitting GCSE and A Level examinations have done so with maturity and determination. Remembering that this is something they have not done before deserves an extra layer of praise, especially considering their last 'normal' year was Year 8 (for GCSE) and Year 10 (for A level). We look forward to seeing them on results day.

Pupils in other year groups have not stood still either with our new Year 10 embarking on their Key Stage 4 courses and our New Year 11 and Year 13 sitting mock exams.

Life outside the classroom is also moving forward at pace. We now have over 40 clubs running on a 7-up lesson and I have just approved two visits for next year to New York and Belgium. This week, we saw the return of Gosforth's famous 'Yellow Week', when the timetable is suspended and the students get to engage in a range of different experiences, from re-enacting the Battle of Hastings to the making of bread! Over six hundred students have enjoyed a break from the norm and shown a willingness to throw themselves into new challenges. Thanks too, to the staff who have provided opportunities for the pupils to surf, golf, read, take photos, visit museums and art galleries and walk through the beautiful Lake District. We're looking forward to next year already!

The Sixth Form Progression week has also been a success. Students heard from speakers from University of Sheffield, Newcastle and Northumbria to explore skills for living independently, how to choose a course and University application advice.

On Tuesday, students took part in community volunteer activities with Urban Green and a carousel of talks in school including learning Makaton (a sign language) and First Aid skills.

Preit Chahal Principal

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On Wednesday most of the Sixth Form went on coach trips to Leeds, Glasgow and a tour of Northumbria University. Those not on trips, have worked in school on an exercise helping them identify online volunteering opportunities through Zooniverse (the home of the Internet's largest citizen science projects) and online courses of interest through Coursera (a MOOC - Massive Online Open-Source Course platform). Thursday has been a day of team building through creative and physical team challenges. We hope this has given our students further opportunities to explore their interests and put themselves in the best position moving forward. [@gosforthacademyfutures](#) Instagram and the Careers section of the school website, as well as Sixth Form FROG, has plenty of resources to boost our students' enrichment and progression over the holidays.

Some students in the new Year 11 and new Year 13 took advantage of going on work experience this week, which I am sure gave them a good insight to the world of work. Placements ranged from the NHS to the National Trust and hairdressers to solicitors.

Below are a few more mundane operational bits of information you will find helpful.

Results Days & Sixth Form enrolment

These take place at the following times:

- A-level- Thursday 18th August from 8am
- GCSE- Thursday 25th August from 9am
- Year 12 enrolment- Friday 26th August- starts from 9am with time slots assigned by surname.

Mrs Blackburn and Mrs Milburn have already sent further information regarding the above but a couple of key reminders:

1. Ideally, the student should collect their own results. If a representative is collecting results e.g. parents then they must have a signed and dated letter from the student and some photographic proof of ID e.g. passport or driving license. Without this we are not able to release results.
2. If any student is unable to collect their results they can provide a stamped address envelope at student reception prior to results day. These will be posted on results day.

Start of term arrangements-September 2022

The following dates and times are when school will re-start for each year group.

Year	Start date and time
9	Tuesday 6 th September- 10am
10	Wednesday 7 th September- 8:40am
11	Wednesday 7 th September- 8:40am
12	Wednesday 7 th September – 8:55am- surnames A-L Wednesday 7 th September- 9:45am surnames M-Z Lessons start Period 3 on this day- 10.50am
13	Monday 5 th September-Assembly-1:30-2:30 Wednesday 7 th September- lessons start Period 2 on this day – 9.45am

Uniform

As per my last update we have been re-setting our high expectations with regard to attendance, uniform and the PRAISE (Main School) and Pyramid Codes (Sixth Form). This will continue in September. With regard to uniform, all information is on our website ([School Uniform \(gosforthacademy.org.uk\)](http://SchoolUniform.gosforthacademy.org.uk))

I would also like to make parents aware of the second hand uniform scheme available. More details can be found here:

[Michael Sehgal Supports 2nd Hand Uniform Solution \(mailchi.mp\)](http://MichaelSehgalSupports2ndHandUniformSolution.mailchi.mp)

Farewell to long-serving colleagues

Today we say goodbye to five colleagues who are retiring this summer. Between them they have amassed 158 years' experience and have been stalwarts of the school; some of you may have even been taught by them! These staff are Mrs McEwan (Biology), Mrs Johnston (PE), Mr Roxborough (Maths), Mrs Milburn (Director of Main School & Food) and Mrs Marco (Spanish). All five of them have been exceptional colleagues and they leave with our very best wishes.

Finally, all Main School students will be dismissed at 12:25pm on today. Wishing you and your families a wonderful summer break.

Preit Chahal



Principal