

Our Ref: PRC/JYD

11 April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this update finds you well.

This term seems to have been the longest Spring term I can remember and I have no doubt all staff and students are ready for a well-deserved break. With Easter being so late we only have one week after the holidays until the external exam season starts. Subjects like Art, PE, Dance, Drama and Food have started already. With this in mind, it won't surprise you that the start of my letter focuses on the exam year groups.

### **Y11 Update - Assemblies, exam tips from EBacc areas and Easter revision.**

We have almost completed a series of Y11 assemblies on a Friday morning. These have been presented by different subject specialists. These were planned in response to students querying, "What's the best way to revise this subject?" It was lovely to also have the opportunity to praise students nominated by class teachers as current 'stars.' Each assembly concluded with highlighting to students where pastoral and wellbeing support is also available in school. Key slides from the presentations are linked below, which might also help parents support their children with revision in the forthcoming exam period. These slides have been shared with students via Frog.

Link :<https://www.gosforthacademy.org.uk/curriculum/year-11-gcse-revision-information>

### **Easter School**

Easter school invitations have now been issued to relevant students. These are planned to be positive, productive and supportive experience for selected students and staff are very much looking forward to welcoming them. Sessions will support the work that students are undertaking over the holidays at home. As a school, we are well aware of the very important role that parents play in the exams process, not least in checking exam and revision timetables, supporting revision session attendance and aiding wellbeing. Gosforth Academy's longstanding success of excellent results is based on a number of factors, including your on-going support, so once again, thank you.

### **Exam Revision-Year 11 and Year 13**

I am often asked by parents of Year 11s how much revision we recommend. This is always difficult to answer given all the variables and starting points. However, if I was pushed for an answer, I would recommend at least two hours of revision each school night and far longer (4-5 hours) over weekends and holidays. Clearly regular rest breaks are also vital and "little and often" is a term we regularly use when advising students on how much to revise.

### **Preit Chahal Principal**

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Year 13 students will be used to independent study by now so will need less direction. In school we have extended silent study to Period 3 to ensure the environment in Sixth Form communal areas is conducive to learning. Academic Mentoring also started some time ago now for a select cohort of students, alongside departmental revision sessions.

### Inclusion Quality Mark

The Local Authority has asked Gosforth Academy to apply for the Inclusion Quality Mark Award to highlight the improvements that we have made in supporting students to succeed irrespective of their background and circumstances. We are very proud of the changes we have made in recent years and this was recognised in a recent Trust internal review. We know we can still do more and we will share some of our priorities with you as this piece of work progresses. For any parents of students with a special educational need, please be reminded that your child has a Key Worker and they can be contacted at any point.

On the subject of Inclusion, I am extremely proud that the diversity of our staff body also reflects our student body. One of our Sixth Form tutors, Mr Gibson, lost his sight just over two years ago but with his sheer determination, coupled with good support from colleagues, he's continued to be a highly effective tutor. Mr Gibson was presented with a High Sheriff of Northumberland Award last month to recognise his work in the community, running a karate club. We are very lucky to have Mr Gibson as a member of staff here; he is an inspiration to us all and a great role model to many of our students, demonstrating that disability is no barrier. More information on Mr Gibson's award can be found here [Super Tutor](#)

### Extra-curricular

This term, our students have enjoyed a range of extra-curricular activities. A real strength of our curriculum is that Year 9 all have Enrichment built into their timetable. However, other activities have included theatre visits, talks from authors, public speaking competitions, trips to Kielder and hosting colleagues and Exchange partners from Spain and France. This is not an exhaustive list and it's wonderful to see and hear about all the trips going out. Additionally, we also feel it's vital to contribute to the wider community and Black & White Day raised vital funds for Newcastle Foodbank, as well celebrating our region's success- hopefully the first of many! We also sent contributions to St Oswald's Hospice and had Tyne Tees visit to discuss the importance of RE in the curriculum - depending on local news today this might be on tonight's Tyne Tees so watch this space! I am really pleased to say we were awarded the National Quality in Careers Standard in recognition for the work we do for preparing our students for adulthood. Finally, we have had many sporting successes this year, with the main highlights being Year 9 League Champions at football and our KS3 and KS5 Girls Squash team are NATIONAL Champions!

### Year 13 Leavers Assembly

Today Year 13 had an assembly to celebrate their time in Sixth Form. This included the awarding of subject prizes, a range of Sixth Form prizes, some musical interludes provided by students and some of our more musically talented staff, and the student photo montage, which catalogued the range of activities our students have participated in, both in school and out of it, during the last two years. The tutor team also awarded their own prizes - the DAFTAS - to the students that brought themselves to our attention in a variety of ways.

Finally, can I take the opportunity to wish you a well-deserved break and wish those students in Year 11 and Year 13 lots of best wishes from all staff ahead of their external exams.

We will return at the slightly earlier time of **8:40am on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April** to maximise teaching time in what is a very short half term.

Yours sincerely,



Preit Chahal  
Principal