

Ref: PRC/JYD

9 September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a good summer break and getting your children back to a school routine wasn't too painful! I have some brief updates regarding the summer and start of term.

Results-Summer 2024

Once again I am pleased to report Gosforth Academy results this summer put us in the top flight of North East schools at both A-level and GCSE with many "best ever" headline measures. At A-level 30% of entries were at an A*/A grade and at GCSE 88% gained a Grade 4 in English and 86% gained a Grade 4 in Maths. Gosforth Academy achieved the best results in the city across several headline measures but more importantly we are delighted that the vast majority of students progressed to destinations of their choice. Huge credit must go to the students who showed dedication and commitment to their studies. However, our longstanding success does not happen by chance and is also down to our extremely hardworking and talented teaching and support staff who work together to deliver an exceptional quality of education. Finally, we recognise and value the importance of supportive parents and we are lucky that the vast majority of families at Gosforth Academy reinforce the vision and values of the school.

Year 9 Parents

Other than a small number of PRAISE Code/uniform infringements we have been really pleased by the way students have started. I know it's a big step up in terms of both the sheer size of the school but also the expectations we have academically and behaviourally. I hope your child has come home and spoken enthusiastically about their first few days at High school. One particularly exciting new curriculum offer for Year 9 is the Enrichment period which we spoke to you about on Intake Evening. I hope students really enjoy this lesson and learn things beyond the traditional Key Stage 3

Preit Chahal Principal

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curriculum. Our Period 7 extra-curricular activities will also be launched soon and this is a great way to meet new people and try something different.

As always, if you're worried about anything or need some support please get in touch. I can't guarantee we can give you exactly what you want but we might be able to help and reassure.

Uniform

Our Main School students have arrived in this week looking smart and ready to learn. We have high expectations and strict systems with regard to uniform and behaviour so, put simply, our teachers can teach and students can learn. The student planner is the passport to school and without it students cannot be under our PRAISE Code; if a child does not have a planner they will be in isolation until the planner is located or a new one can be found. Of course, there is always a small degree of flexibility for exceptional cases but these are handled on a case by case basis by our pastoral teams.

Attendance-All students, including Sixth Form

The Department for Education has issued new statutory guidance for attendance called *Working Together to Improve School Attendance*. This came into effect on the 19th August 2024. It details what schools, parents and Local Authorities should do to improve pupils' attendance at school.

There are some important changes to attendance management which will affect the support parent and pupils receive from schools, and the legal sanctions that are used in certain circumstances.

Schools are legally obliged to provide support and intervention for pupils who are at risk of persistent absence (90% attendance or below). This will take the form of meetings with parents, school-based interventions, and the offer of support from outside agencies and professionals.

Schools are very keen to identify the barriers to attendance that families face and will welcome opportunities to overcome these barriers together. However, when a child's attendance falls outside of the parental legal obligations to send their child to school, there are legal pathways that must be followed. More information can be found by following this link to our website.

[Attendance Information \(gosforthacademy.org.uk\)](https://www.gosforthacademy.org.uk)

Parking

Knightsbridge is a school safety zone and no loading restrictions apply for its length which prohibits waiting at any time. Asda have kindly agreed that any parent can drop off there should you need to.

Below is an extract from the council:

Our Parking Enforcement teams have been requested to attend the site to ensure compliance with the no loading restrictions and issue Penalty Charge Notices if appropriate. As part of the schools planning obligations, we request the school reminds parents not to compromise pupil safety on Knightsbridge or park in private land on Knightsbridge Court, and to utilise the facility at ASDA instead.

I wish your son/daughter a successful start to the school year and look forward to working with you this year.



Preit Chahal
Principal