



Gosforth Academy

Parent / Carer
Information Booklet
2025-2026

A Message From The Principal

Welcome!

I am delighted that you have chosen Gosforth Academy for your child for September 2025. We look forward to working with you over the next 5 years to ensure your child maximises their potential both academically and socially. Gosforth Academy is a highly successful school with a superb record of academic achievement and an outstanding reputation. I have no doubt that your child will quickly settle in and flourish.

Our principal aim is to encourage high expectations and high standards of achievement, both academic and personal. Our values embrace honesty, trust, reliability, respect for the legitimate rights of others, care for the weaker members of society, regard for the environment and a kindness towards other people.

We believe that a calm, friendly, disciplined atmosphere, in which hard work and co-operation are respected, is the best way to promote these values.

As always, we are working tirelessly to ensure that the students at Gosforth Academy receive an excellent education. We also intend to work closely with you in ensuring a close partnership between home and the academy, sharing the common ground of bringing out the best in your child.

I hope you find the answers to the many questions you might have in this pack and if not, get in touch, and we will do our best to help you. If you have any queries please contact admin@ga.newcastle.sch.uk



Mr Preit Chahal
Principal

Attendance & Punctuality

We are continually striving to improve standards and raise achievement at Gosforth Academy and good attendance has a large part to play in this, as education is too important to miss. Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that their child attends school. There is the expectation that all students will attend the academy when it is in session. Absence from the academy will have an effect on progress. The responsibility for deciding if an absence is authorised (within the law) or unauthorised lies with the academy.

Leave of Absence

Holidays should only be taken during school holidays. Our Attendance Team have leave of absence request forms which must be completed as far in advance as possible.

Medical Appointments

Where possible medical appointments should be made outside of academy hours. Students should only be absent for the duration of the appointment unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Late To School

Punctuality is as important as attendance and is highly regarded, not just by this academy but by employers and post 16 educational establishments.

Frequent lateness can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously affect your child's progress.

Minutes late each day during the school year equals lost learning.



Reporting Absence

In our efforts to raise attendance figures and to ensure the safety of your child, we operate a 'First Day Response to Absence.' This means that the homes of students will be contacted, on the first day of absence unless we have already been informed of the reason. This will help us to monitor attendance closely and also identify any students who have not reached the academy safely.

The success of this system depends upon the co-operation of parents/carers and we request that:

The academy should be informed of a student's absence by telephoning or email prior to **8.25am** on the first day of absence. There is a 24-hour answering machine service available.

Parents/carers must contact the academy and inform us of any change of address, email address and contact telephone number.

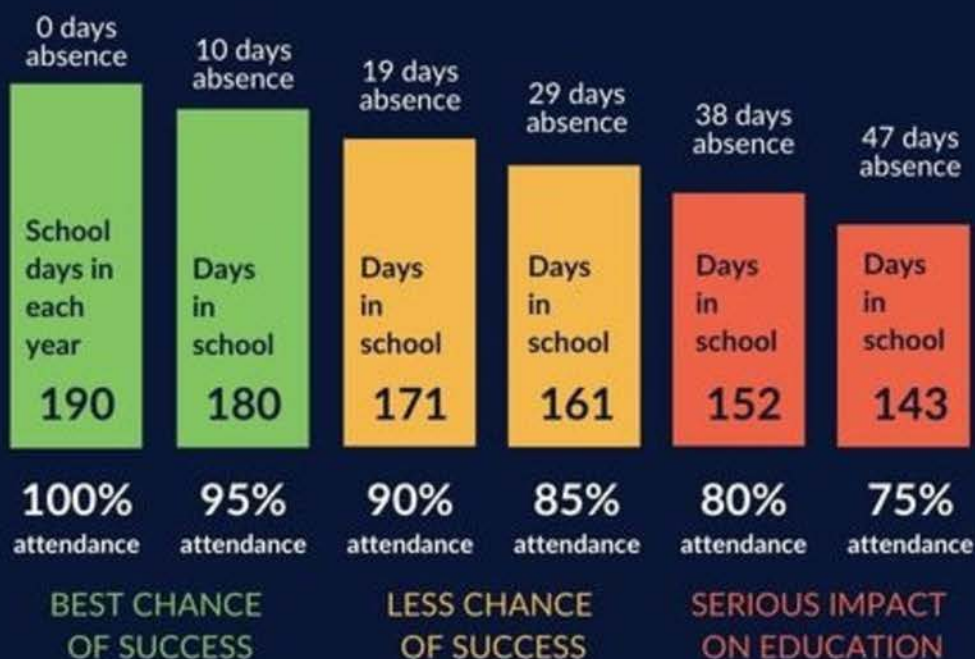
Action for you to take:

Call the Academy on **0191 255 9020**

Or

Email studentabsence@ga.newcastle.sch.uk

Please state your child's name, tutor group and reason for absence.



School Gateway

What is School Gateway - accessing school information systems?

We are now using School Gateway, an essential app to keep you informed about what's going on at school. It keeps everything in one place, behind one login, so you can easily keep in touch.

1. Attendance: advise the school of absences and keep track of your child's attendance rate.
2. Reports & Achievements: receive school reports straight to your phone so you stay up to date with your child's progress.
3. Timetable: view your child's school timetable via the app, website and now the Apple Watch.

The set-up process:

1. Search for "School Gateway" in the Apple App Store/ Google Play, or on your phone, go to www.schoolgateway.com/apple (Apple) or www.schoolgateway.com/android (Android).
2. Install the app, and if you are asked, then say yes to "Allow Push Notifications".
3. When you launch School Gateway for the first time, please select 'New User' and enter the email address and mobile telephone number you have registered with the school.
4. The system will send a PIN code to your phone; please enter this PIN code and the app will be activated for you. As soon as you've got the system set up, all of the text messages we send you will appear in the app; you'll receive notifications/ alerts as normal. If you have any difficulties or if you've recently changed your email address or mobile telephone number, please let us know by contacting us at dataupdate@ga.newcastle.sch.uk.

Term Dates

Autumn Term		
Start of Term	Half Term	Last Day of Term
Tuesday 2nd September 2025	27th October - 31st October 2025	Friday 19th December 2025
Spring Term		
Start of Term	Half Term	Last Day of Term
Monday 5th January 2026	16th - 20th February 2026	Thursday 2nd April 2026
Summer Term		
Start of Term	Half Term	Last Day of Term
Monday 20th April 2026	25th May - 29th May 2026 (bank holiday 25th May 2026)	Friday 17th July 2026

All dates are inclusive.

In addition to the above dates, **schools will be closed to pupils on Monday 4th May 2026** (bank holiday).

Two days within the above terms are to be used for professional development for staff. These dates are to be determined and agreed by individual school governing bodies.

The start of the **Autumn Term 2026** is proposed as **Wednesday 2nd September 2026**.

**Please note this may be subject to change.*

Timing of the Academy Day - Year 9

8:40am - 8:55am	Registration
8:55am - 9:45am	Period 1
9:45am - 10:35am	Period 2
10:35am - 10:50am	Break (15 minutes)
10:50am - 11:35am	Period 3
11:35am - 12:25pm	Period 4
12:25pm - 1:05pm	Lunch (Year 9)
1:05pm - 1:55pm	Period 5
1:55pm - 2:40pm	Period 6
2:40pm - 3:30pm	Period 7 or 7 UP

Tuesday and Friday Year 9 students finish at 2:40pm.

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday finish at 3:30pm*.

There are Parent Consultation Evenings for Years 9-13. Dates will be confirmed at the beginning of the year.

**Please note this may be subject to change.*

The Enrichment Programme

At Gosforth Academy, we aim to deliver a varied and exciting Enrichment Programme that engages students and complements their current and future experiences at the school and beyond. Enrichment opportunities will be offered throughout the school year as part of our 7UP Programme that is in place during Period 7 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays specifically. As well as this, we also offer before and after school clubs on other days and at lunchtime in some cases.

We believe this programme, alongside the broad and balanced curriculum, will offer opportunities for students across our cohort to challenge themselves and develop their interests through a wide range of activities that will continue throughout their time with us. The offer includes competitive sport at local and national level, interest groups, Homework support sessions, the Sixth Form Student Union, leadership and volunteering opportunities, as well as subject related extension programmes.

Sports teams range from those looking to participate or try a new sport, to elite competition with our ACE Rugby Programme (linked with Newcastle Falcons) in the Sixth Form and our various squash teams who annually compete for national titles. Our Performing and Visual Arts departments are a hive of activity after school where new techniques and skills can be developed for interest, or in preparation for events such as the Christmas Assemblies or Pyramid Ceilidh. The Enrichment Programme is a great opportunity for students to apply their passions, celebrated as part of our Character and Wellbeing Programme.

Many options appear on an annual basis, but we are also very receptive to students suggesting potential additions to the programme, and welcome feedback from parents. Details will be available on the website, and new options may appear as we move from one season to another. All opportunities aim to develop students' academic, social and personal skills to prepare them for their future, whatever that might be.



**Pastoral Team**

Mrs Ruth Marklew
Deputy Principal
Main School

Head of Year

Senior Learning &
Pastoral Supervisor

Form Tutor

Attendance Team

The academy's aim is to provide a safe and secure environment for your child to develop and fulfil their potential academically. One of the strengths of the academy is the pastoral team who will support your child in their transition from middle school to high school. The Pastoral Team will monitor your child's welfare, progress, engagement for learning, attendance and punctuality. In the first instance you should contact the pastoral office.

Inclusion & Student Experience

Mr Gavin Mather
Deputy Principal Inclusion
& Student Experience

SENDCO

Assistant SENDCO

Student Wellbeing
Coordinator

Counsellors

The Student Support Base (SSB)

The SSB provides an environment where intervention programmes are offered to support the inclusion of students across the Academy and also where the SEND Department is based. Support takes many forms including sessions offered from our NUFC Partners programme, a space to meet with key workers and to access the Alternate Curriculum Room (ACR). Other support available to students is our Student Wellbeing Co-Ordinator and our in-school counselling service. There are also small lesson environments where numeracy and reading intervention and homework clubs operate. We work closely with parents/carers, students and their feeder middle school to ensure transition to Gosforth Academy is as smooth as possible. If families are working with other support agencies in the community we are keen to continue a multi-agency approach to supporting young people meet their full potential.

Please contact Mrs. Coady to enquire about SEND support, rebecca.coady@ga.newcastle.sch.uk and Mr. Mitchell for student wellbeing support james.mitchell@ga.newcastle.sch.uk.

At Gosforth Academy, we have a medical room, situated opposite the student reception. The room is staffed during school hours by qualified first aiders and generally overseen by the Student Wellbeing Coordinator.

Managing Medical Conditions

Students with specific medical needs should provide the school with a care plan from their NHS/private medical provider. Common conditions that can require one of these include: allergies, diabetes, asthma, and epilepsy. This list is not exhaustive, so if you are unsure or have any questions, please contact us to discuss. Students living with medical conditions will have regular 121s with the Student Wellbeing Coordinator, to ensure that their needs are being met, and to gather feedback on the support they receive.

Medications

It is school policy to only administer prescribed medicines (e.g. antibiotics) if it is essential that they are given during the school day. Whilst the school does carry emergency EpiPens and asthma inhalers, the medical room does not store, or administer, any drugs such as paracetamol, ibuprofen or antihistamines. If students bring in medication, a 'medication in school form' is required before any medication can be administered - these can be provided in paper format by the medical room or via email. Prescribed medication kept in the medical room must be in the original container as dispensed from the chemist, clearly labelled with the name of the student, the name and dose of the medication, the expiry date, and the frequency of administration. Whilst medications are regularly audited, it is a parental responsibility to ensure that all medicines are in date. Please collect all medicines at the end of the school year as any that have not been collected, or which have expired, will be disposed of.

Please Note

Medication must not be carried by students, with the exception of emergency medication such as EpiPens and inhalers. Parents/carers are also asked to provide a spare inhaler or EpiPen to be stored in the first aid room for use in an emergency. It is a parental responsibility to ensure these are kept in date.

Becoming Unwell at School

If your child becomes unwell during a lesson, they may attend the medical room at their teacher's discretion. If the medical room isn't open, Student Reception can locate a first aider or open the medical room for students to access their medication. Our trained first aiders will assess students to decide on appropriate action, and parents will be consulted prior to any student being sent home, or if their child requires emergency treatment.

Inclusion & Student Experience - SEND

Additional Support for Pupils on the SEND Register

In order to ensure that you have a first point of contact regarding your child's SEN, all pupils on our SEND Register are provided a Key Contact. This is a member of support staff, who will meet with your child regularly, and will maintain regular communication with home.

We communicate pupil's needs to their teachers via a Pupil Passport; a document that provides an explanation into your child's learning need, as well as recommended support strategies for the classroom. These documents are regularly updated and reviewed. Included in this information is a parental view form, as we believe it is vital that school, and home, work closely together to ensure that each pupil achieves their best.

In order to ensure that any pupils with additional needs are fully supported in their transition to Gosforth Academy, we work closely with all middle schools to identify further transition events if necessary. This includes opportunities for pupils to visit the Student Support Base, (where the SENDCO and support staff are based), as well as the opportunity for parents to meet with either our SENDCO, or a member of the team, prior to joining us in year 9.

If you have any questions related to SEND, our SENDCO'S contact details are:
rebecca.coady@ga.newcastle.sch.uk





The Cousins Library

The Cousins Library

With a collection of over 11,000 books, the Cousins Library is a friendly space, in which students can read, do homework, revise and be a part of our reading groups.

In Year 9 pupils will have the opportunity to take part in the Reading Challenge, a competition to see which English class can read the most books with prizes. The library stock also supports the Accelerated Reader programme, which is run by the Student Support Base and the English Department.

Opening Times

The Cousins Library is open from 8:00am - 4:00pm on Monday to Thursday and from 8:00am - 3:30pm on Fridays, meaning that there is plenty of time to get access to our books, computers and study space before and after school, in addition to at breaks and lunchtimes.

Resource Areas

The library has a large collection of fiction to suit all ability levels, which is regularly updated and a comprehensive set of textbooks and revision guides to support the various GCSE and BTEC subjects. Our non-fiction stock also supports both wider reading and reading for pleasure.

There is a suite of 30 computers, providing access to the school network, the Internet and FROG, the Academy's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).



Dining Hall

We have a cashless system of school meals administration in operation at Gosforth Academy, using Biometric (based on a computer code derived from a finger scan). This system reduces the administration and cash handling in the academy. It enables students to pay for their meals more quickly reducing the amount of time spent waiting to be served.

Payment Methods

iPayimpact (www.ipayimpact.co.uk): allows you to pay for your child's school meals online and gives you more control and greater visibility over the food choices they are making.

We will provide all parents and carers with full instructions before your child starts in September.

For the Biometric system we need to obtain a finger scan for each student. This will take place during the summer term.

Specific consent is required from parents and/or carers of students under the age of 18 for the use of this information. The consent form was included in the admission pack for you to complete and return. We cannot scan your child's finger print until this form has been signed.



The uniform supplier for Gosforth Academy is

**Michael Sehgal & Sons Ltd
Unit 17 Airport Industrial Estate
Kingston Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 2EF**

**Tel: 0191 230 2320.
www.michaelsehgal.co.uk
sales@michaelsehgal.co.uk**

Main School Uniform

All students will require the following main uniform items:

- School black rain jacket* and/or school fleece* (can be worn together) purchased from our uniform supplier or any plain black coat.
- Black pleated skirt or black trousers, not tight fitting.
- Navy sweatshirt* with school logo
- White polo shirt* with school logo
- Black shoes (no boots or trainers)
- Food technology apron - blue & white stripe design is preferred

Students joining Year 9 in September 2025 will wear uniform tops with the blue circle around the school logo, continuing through to Year 10 and Year 11.

Wearing a school coat on the journey to school is compulsory for all students following the October half term holiday and up to the February half term holiday. Non-uniform items such as fleeces or hoodies cannot be worn under school coats or over school sweatshirts.

Only the items listed above should be worn. It is impossible to list all of the items not to be worn in school. However, if you are in any doubt, please contact the school before you make a purchase.

*Items supplied by our approved supplier, Michael Sehgal & Sons Ltd.

Note: Please note this may be subject to change.

Physical Education Uniform

All students in Year 9 to Year 11 will require the following PE/sports wear items:

- Navy/amber polo shirt* with school logo (indoor and summer term lessons)
- At least one item from:
 - Navy/amber rugby shirt* with school logo, or
 - Mid-layer navy outdoor top* with school logo (winter/spring lessons)
- At least one item from:
 - Plain navy shorts, or
 - Plain navy tracksuit bottoms, or
 - Plain navy sports leggings
- Long navy football socks (for outdoor contact games)
- White ankle sport socks
- Non-marking training shoes (not leisure shoes)
- Astro-trainers, moulded and metal studded (not blades) football boots are preferred footwear to be worn on our new 3G pitch

Dance Uniform:

All students studying Dance are expected to wear exactly the same uniform as they wear for PE. Optional Dance hoodies are also available from Mrs Foster at an additional cost. No other hoody will be permitted and failure to wear the correct uniform will result in a planner comment.

Note to parents/carers:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is recommended, e.g. shin pads and mouth-guards for contact sports such as football, hockey and rugby.
- All jewellery should be removed.

*Items supplied by our approved supplier, Michael Sehgal & Sons Ltd.

Note: Please note this may be subject to change.

Expectations

We regard the wearing of school uniform as very important and seek the support of parents/carers in maintaining our very high standards in this respect.

- We expect students to come to school looking tidy and presentable.
- Jewellery is restricted to a watch. We reserve the right to confiscate, or insist that students remove, any item which contravenes these guidelines or which we deem to be a potential safety hazard.
- Hair accessories should be plain black, navy or white and not excessive.
- Religious headwear must be plain black, navy or white.
- Personal stereos must not be worn, nor should mobile phones be switched on or visible inside the building.
- Excessive makeup, false nails and nail varnish are not allowed.
- Hairstyles must not be extreme, avant-garde or an unnatural colour. We reserve the right to determine what is a reasonable style or colour of hair and to insist that students with inappropriate hairstyles have them restyled or coloured, wear a suitable covering or remain in isolation in school until we consider their hair to be acceptable.
- Hats, scarves, T-shirts, jeans, sportswear, boots or trainers of any colour must not be worn in school.
- Our lists are often not exhaustive as it is not possible to catalogue every scenario that could be deemed a breach of policy. Please note that the senior staff team reserves the right to determine what may or may not breach our own policies.

Equipment

- All students should have:
 - A planner, pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, scientific calculator, protractor/angle measurer and compass in their pencil case. Students will be given a planner on their first day in September. Replacement planners can be purchased from iPayimpact and then collected from Student Reception.
- All students must have a bag big enough to hold an A4 folder.

Year 8 Transition

Your child will have the opportunity to visit Gosforth Academy on:

- Wednesday 2nd July 2025
- Thursday 3rd July 2025

The days have been organised so that your child has the opportunity to experience the travel arrangements from home to the academy in preparation for September.

Students should arrive at the Gosforth Academy and go to the main hall for an 8:40am start and the day will end at 2:40pm.

- Students are to wear their middle school uniform
- Bring a pencil case e.g. pen, pencil, ruler
- Bring a refillable water bottle

These days will enable your child to meet key staff and enjoy some lessons and complete assessments. A meal will be provided, or alternatively, your child might prefer to bring a packed lunch.

New Intake Evening

**Parents/Carers are invited to attend Gosforth Academy on
Wednesday 9th July 2025.**

There will be a presentation in the main hall for parents/carers.

**Session 1 | 5:00pm - 5:45pm | Tutor Groups A-H
Session 2 | 6:00pm - 6:45pm | Tutor Groups M-U**



Create Your Future

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Great North Road,
Gosforth,
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 2JH

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www.gosforthacademy.org.uk
admin@ga.newcastle.sch.uk