

Our Ref: PRC/JYD

24 October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we wrap up the longest half-term in the academic calendar I want to take a moment to update you on some important areas of the school.

Performance Tables Success

You may have read in local news that performance tables have been released and I am pleased to report that Gosforth Academy feature in the top ranks, once again. Credit must go to students, staff and of course the families who all work together to create a longstanding and successful partnership. You can read more below:

<https://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/top-newcastle-secondary-schools-gcse-32707793.amp>

Behaviour

I have been delighted by the way the majority of students are conducting themselves around school and in lessons. From the Sixth Formers who are studying silently when they have free periods to Year 9 students who seem to have taken the transition in their stride. Every Monday Period 7 I see students selected by form tutors to come and see me for extra praise, it's a range of students from those who have no planner comments and lots of stamps to those who have made vast improvements from previous weeks. This is the most pleasurable part of the week. Please could parents continue to check their child's planner and have meaningful weekly conversations with them about any stamps, comments, and homework they receive? This really makes a difference and thanks to those who do this routinely.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be a big focus for us this year as it is nationally. Clearly parents play a huge part in making sure their child attends school. Year 9 are leading the way with an attendance of over 95% with the other year groups not too far behind. We would like all year groups to be 95% or higher and ask for your support in getting your child in to school. We have a focus on the students who lie in each attendance banding which is summarised below:

Preit Chahal Principal

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- Students who miss **9 school days** in a school year are '**occasionally absent**'. Their attendance will be between 90% and 95%.
- Students who miss **19 school days** in a school year are '**persistently absent**'. Their attendance will be **less than 90%**.
- Students who miss **95 school days** per year are **severely absent**. Their attendance will be **less than 50%**.

Absence is contagious so it's vital that every student maximises the 190 days that they are expected to be in school.

If any parent requires support from the school to help their child's attendance improve please contact school. All of our pastoral staff have been trained in Emotionally Based School Avoidance and we also have an experienced Attendance team who are happy to help, please just call the school and they will put you through to the right people.

Contingency Plans-Exams 2026

Year 11 and Year 13 students only have two terms left until they embark on external exams. Ofqual release guidance on collecting evidence on students' performance to ensure resilience in the qualification system. Guidance is provided for schools on how to gather and retain evidence of student performance for use in the unlikely event that exams are unable to go ahead.

[Guidance on collecting evidence of student performance to ensure resilience in the qualifications system - GOV.UK](#)

The general message is that any assessment done should be treated seriously and prepared for in the unlikely event that it has to be used as contingency evidence if exams were to be cancelled.

Coats

A reminder that after half-term all students are expected to wear the plain black school coat. Parents can choose to buy the branded or non-branded item from Sehgal's. We are aware there are some supplier issues and we would be more than happy to support parents by providing students with a temporary coat if this is the case.

Achievements

It has been an immensely busy half term and below gives you a flavour of just some of the great things going on:

- Modern Foreign Languages Exchanges have taken place with German and Italian students visiting Gosforth Academy this term.
- Year 9 & 10 Social Studies students visited Bendrigg offering accessible, all-inclusive activity breaks for students of all abilities.
- 49 early entry UCAS applications have been sent, including to Oxford, Cambridge and for Medicine and Dentistry. Year 13 students continue to prepare their applications next half-term.
- Coffee morning raised £135 for Macmillan Cancer Support
- Drama trip to Sunderland Empire to see War Horse after half term.
- Our Sixth Form rugby team remain unbeaten so far this season.
- Year 10 Netball team won the Newcastle City Cup tournament.
- Over 100 students have signed up for Duke of Edinburgh.

Service of Remembrance: 4.30 pm, Thursday 7th November

Gosforth Academy will be holding a *Service of Remembrance*, 4.30 pm, Thursday 6th November, in the Main Hall. The event will be student led, with readings, music performances and a reflective period of Remembrance.

Staff, parents, volunteer cadets, members of our armed services and the wider community, will be invited to attend. The event should finish around 5.30 pm. There are still tickets left so if you would like to attend please collect a ticket from our main reception by Wednesday November bearing in mind it is shut over half-term; these tickets will go on a first come first served basis.

Culture Days

Finally, we have enjoyed celebrating two culture days last week in Sixth Form with students sharing different foods and wearing traditional dress. We are very lucky to have such a diverse school community who work together in harmony and we celebrate this as much as we can.

As always, thank you for your continued support. I hope next week offers you all a chance to reset and recharge. We look forward to welcoming students back at 8:40am on Monday 3rd November, by then the clocks would have gone back and the festive season will be in the air!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Preit Chahal', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Preit Chahal
Principal