

REF: PRC/JYD

2 April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well.

The Spring term has been busy from Solar Energy and Sustainability upgrades to Sixth Form Open Evening and Year 9 Options Evening. Alongside that there have been mock exams for Year 11 and Year 13, so they go into this summer feeling prepared and confident. Students have continued to enjoy a range of opportunities beyond the classroom this term too. Whilst not an exhaustive list, our students have taken part in theatre visits, Geography fieldwork, Kielder Observatory, hosting colleagues from Spain, France and Germany, numerous sporting fixtures, HE Conference and the Pyramid Ceilidh.

In terms of sporting successes, they are numerous, but I do have to single out two exceptional highlights this term. Firstly, Gosforth Academy had its most successful ever visit to the National Schools Squash Finals recently, with five of our six teams making it through to the quarter-final stages at Edgbaston Priory in Birmingham. Gosforth Academy was the best performing school across all the categories, with our KS4 Girls becoming National Champions! More detail on this exceptional achievement can be found here [Gosforth Academy - National Schools Squash Finals 2026 Success](#). Secondly, our school truly shone as the Year 10 boys' football team brought their league season to a remarkable close. Not only were they crowned East League champions, but they also went on to become regional champions, lifting the historic Exhibition Cup, one of the oldest trophies in the competition, dating back to 1933.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be a big focus for us and obviously parents play a huge part in making sure their child is in school. Main School attendance is tracking the national figure which is good given attendance drops as students get older and we have no Year 7 or 8 to bolster whole school figures. Clearly, we would like it to be even higher than that and ask for your support in getting your child in to school. One area which I would like your support on is occasional absence- a significant number of students are in the 90-95% category which at the lower end is equivalent to missing one day off per fortnight. Whilst we appreciate that illness is unavoidable, we know absence can be contagious. We also ask that any non-urgent medical appointments are booked out of school hours. We have identified some groups of

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students who are struggling to attend and are working with parents/carers to support. If you need any support from the school all of our pastoral staff have been trained in Emotionally Based School Avoidance and we also have an Attendance team who are happy to help, please just call the school and they will put you through to the right people.

Inclusion Quality Framework

A big part of our work over the last few years is to develop our inclusive practice. This is done through all aspects of school life including quality first teaching, targeted academic support and wider pastoral support. We have a history of strong outcomes for SEND and Pupil Premium students who achieve well both academically and personally. We truly believe that if we look after the most vulnerable in our school the rest of the students will achieve, belong and thrive too. Last Friday Local Authority colleagues came in to observe our work and there was very positive feedback. Whilst we have made huge strides forward over the last few years, we know we can improve further. We encourage all parents with SEND needs to contact their Key Worker if there are any issues.

Final Countdown

Following the return to school after the Easter break, we have only three weeks before examinations commence. Year 11 students have received the Final Countdown booklet detailing revision sessions which have been running for some time now. Within this booklet there are also subject hints and tips to guide their revision. It is imperative that students are following a very strict revision programme over the Easter holidays. I am often asked by parents how much is enough and this is always difficult to answer given all the variables and starting points. However, if I were pushed for an answer, I would recommend at least two hours revision each school night and far longer (4-5 hours) over weekends and holidays. Attending one revision class is never enough. It would be beneficial if you could check that your child's revision is active and regular. Students will have been given suggested revision resources by subject teachers however they should supplement these with the use of revision guides, websites and past papers.

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

Whilst our Year 11 and 13 students need to take time to study over the holidays, I am also aware they need some quality time with friends and family and a chance to recharge their batteries. We have all been there and it's very normal to feel overwhelmed, stressed and anxious over the next few months. However, with a combination of in school pastoral support coupled with support at home I have no doubt our students will excel as they have done over many years now. We have been very impressed with how engaged and focused they have been of late.

Sixth Form Leadership Change

Today we say farewell to two colleagues, Richard Bradshaw (Pastoral Mentor) and Karen Blackburn (Deputy Principal-Post 16). We thank them for their service to Gosforth Academy over a substantially long time- 21 and 17 years, respectively. Lindsay Bradley will act as Deputy Principal-Sixth Form next term. With considerable experience, I have no doubt Lindsay will lead this area extremely effectively.

Year 12 Mock Study Leave

Year 12 mock examinations run from the 20th of April. There will be study leave during this week other than for vocational lessons which will run as normal.

Finally, a reminder that school will close today at 12:25pm and re-open to students at 8:40 am on Monday 20th April.

Wishing all students and families an enjoyable break.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Preit Chahal', with a horizontal line underneath.

Preit Chahal
Principal