

Our Ref: PRC/JYD

16 July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and those football fans out there are happy to be patient for another 4 years!

Yellow Week

As you know our final week at Gosforth Academy is our unique Yellow Week. This really is an amazing opportunity for all staff and students to enjoy an activity outside the classroom in a more informal setting. We feel this gives students opportunities that many of us remember fondly from our school days and creates experiences and memories that will be treasured forever. We are very aware of the importance of this given the academic demands on our students and staff throughout the year. This week students have been taking part in a wide range of impressive activities including Canny Crafts, Dressmaking for Beginners, Dungeons and Dragons, Football Coaching with NUFC, Geek Week, Mind Games for Fun, Creative Hub, Golf, Ice Skating, Life through a Lens and Surfing.

We've also had trips out including Duke of Edinburgh, World Challenge to Cambodia, Italy, Krakow, Paris and USA. Finally, many students took the opportunity to use the week to do Work Experience which will be invaluable for preparing them for adulthood. I am sure you'll agree there is something for everyone in the above list and it's been a pleasure to see, and hear, all the great things going on. I'd like to personally thank Mr Snowdon who has led this week alongside all Activity Leaders and staff who put in hours and hours of preparation to give students these enriching experiences.

Transition-Year 9 and 12

Two weeks ago, we enjoyed welcoming prospective Year 12 students to our Bridging week. Hopefully, this has given students a good taste of the subjects they may wish to study in September but also develop some independent skills which are so important during their time in Sixth Form. There is a brilliant offer in our Sixth Form and I look forward to welcoming both current Year 11 students and external students in September.

Preit Chahal Principal

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Additionally, we have held two Year 9 intake days and it was also great to meet the parents of those students in the evening too. I know additional bespoke visits have been arranged beyond these days for certain students and we're sure in September that they will all settle in very well.

Progression Week

Our Sixth Form have been engaging in either work experience or progression related activities in school this week. Progression Week has included trips to universities, mock interviews, yoga, UCAS preparation, First Aid- a real mix of a week incorporating planning for the future coupled with good life skills. Furthermore, a guest speaker from Northumbria University delivered a talk focussing on Economics and Finance, students took part in an interactive Stock Market Challenge and an Environmental Investigation. As community partnerships is a big focus of the school, we have also had a group of students completing community volunteering at Jesmond Dene.

Exam Results

A reminder that we welcome our exam year groups to collect their results on:

- Thursday 13th August 2026-A-level-8am
- Thursday 20th August 2026-GCSE-9am

Separate advice and timings have been sent to Year 11 students who intend to enrol in our Sixth Form, this will take place immediately after GCSE results have been issued.

September Start Times

Wednesday 2nd September 2026- Year 9 only-8:40am

Thursday 3rd September 2026- Year 10, 11 at 8:40am

Thursday 3rd September- Year 12 and 13 start 9:45am

Update on Free Schools Meals from Local Authority

Newcastle City Council who provides catering to schools within the Gosforth Group, will be increasing their prices to provide a school meal from £3.10 to £3.20 from April 2027. This has no impact on free school meal provision. Please ensure there are sufficient funds on your child's accounts to cover this change.

More information on Free School Meal eligibility can be found here:

[Apply for free school meals](#) [Apply for free school meals](#) | [Newcastle City Council](#)

Farewell to colleagues

We say a number of goodbyes to colleagues this year and thank them all for their service. The longest serving members include:

Kate Whiting (Head of RE) who has passionately taught the subject for many years and inspired thousands of students during her 32 years at GA. Her subject knowledge is wide-ranging and delivery and RE has consistently been one of the top performing departments at the school.

Chris Long (Achievement Co-ordinator in Maths) who has taught all levels of Maths (including A-level Further Maths) for 32 years. Chris' relational approach has allowed him to get even the most challenging classes and students on board. He is a highly dependable colleague who we will miss greatly.

Michael Baxter (Deputy Principal-Teaching & Resource Development)-Michael leaves us after 22 years' service initially as Director of Music before moving into the Senior Leadership Team. Michael's responsibilities have included CPD, Staff Appraisal, T&L

and dealing with staffing issues. His calm, mild mannered, thoughtful and reflective demeanour will be missed by us all.

Leigh Shickle also leaves us having worked in the Pastoral team for 19 years. Leigh started as an Active Play supervisor managing games during lunchtimes and then was promoted to the pastoral team where he has worked for several years. Leigh's consistency with the PRAISE Code and adoption of high standards has ensured the school has flourished.

In addition to the above we also thank Adam Procter (History), Darren Bell (LSA), Lawrence Patton (ACE Rugby Manager), Yasaman McDonnell (Maths teacher), Annie Morgan (Social Sciences), Jade Gooden (Maths), Sharon Slaymaker (Exams), Abbie Beckett (Post 16), Ryan Todd (Post 16), Dave Tanner and Steve Hastings (Domestic Assistants) for their contributions and wish them well for the future.

May I end by thanking all parents/cares for their support this year. I still walk around the school pinching myself at how calm, orderly and purposeful things are. This week in particular has made me appreciate how lovely it is for students to be doing things beyond the classroom that will create lifelong memories.

I hope students and their families have a very well-deserved break.

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

Preit Chahal
Principal