Our Ref: PRC/JYD

23 October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. As we wrap up the longest half-term in the academic calendar I want to take a moment to update you on various things.

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 ranks top in Newcastle for GCSE results in 2026. Credit must go to students, staff and of course the families who all work together to create a longstanding and successful partnership.
While statistics can never tell the full story of a school, this result reflects something I see every day at Gosforth Academy: young people with ambition, resilience and a determination to do their very best.
To read more follow the link below:
Gosforth Academy - Gosforth Academy Tops Newcastle GCSE Performance Table

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. We have seen some big improvements in attendance with certain groups of students which shows the support alongside parent partnerships is working. 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 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:

- Students who miss **9 school days** in a school year are '**occasionally absent**'. Their attendance will be between 90% and 95%.

Preit Chahal Principal

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- 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 2027

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.
The contingency day for this year's summer exams is Wednesday 23rd June 2027. All students sitting GCSEs and A Level's must be available to sit exams up to and including this date, as any of the scheduled exams may be moved due to national or local disruptions/events.

Holiday vouchers

Communication went out last week to all families to explain that the Council can no longer provide vouchers over the holidays. The reason is not because of council cuts or a council decision; it's because the government has issued new rules on how the household support fund can be spent, and they are no longer allowed to offer blanket support. It was supposed to stop in March but it was kept going for as long as possible.
Attached to this letter is a **reminder of support for families.**

Trips and events

It has been an immensely busy half term in terms of the personal development side of the school with lots of trips, visits and events taking place. Below gives you a flavour with what some of our students have been participating in.

- Enterprise and Marketing trip
- Cambridge University residential
- Othello Northern Stage visit
- Our Friends in the North theatre visit
- Beamish visit
- NHS Careers event
- Heidelberg Exchange
- BBC Bitesize Teen Summit-a live broadcast hosted by Nicky Campbell, putting teenagers' experiences, concerns and ambitions at the centre of the conversation. Issues included artificial intelligence, social media and the world of work.
- Mr Ronan (Assistant Principal) and two Year 11 students went live on BBC Radio 5live with Naga Munchetty discussing the importance of reading.
- 46 early entry UCAS applications have been sent, including 19 Oxbridge applications and 27 Medicine/Dentistry applications. Year 13 students continue to prepare their applications next half-term.

Next term looks to be just as exciting including trips to Iceland and Italy!

In addition to all of this our PE Department attach a separate newsletter to this update.

Mobile Phone Pouches Monday 2 November

As part of our mobile phone procedures, all students bringing a mobile phone into school are required to have a school-approved mobile phone pouch.
To help us manage the introduction of mobile phone pouches, we are asking parents to let us know if their child will **not** be bringing a mobile phone into school.
If your child will **not** be bringing a mobile phone onto the school site, please complete the form: Mobile Phone Pouch – Fill in form
If you are intending to buy a mobile phone pouch for your child, you can do this through iPayimpact. The mobile phone pouch system will start on **Monday 2 November.**

Service of Remembrance: 6pm, Thursday 5th November

Gosforth Academy will be holding a *Service of Remembrance*, 6pm on Thursday 5th 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 7pm. We would love for as many families as possible to come together as a community to show our respects. Please join us and feel free to bring friends and family.

North East Mayoral Strategic Authority (NEMSA) funding for Sixth Form space

As our prestigious Sixth Form grows we are committed to ensure our facilities continue to be maintained and improved for our students to enjoy. I am delighted to let you know we have been successful in a £265,000 bid from NEMSA. This capital fund will allow us to modernise communal areas, ensure IT infrastructure is upgraded and provide extra learning spaces. We are thankful that NEMSA have awarded us this funding and know our current and future students will benefit from this grant.

Culture Week

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 whilst we celebrate this every week it was nice to shine a spotlight on it this week. I was delighted to hear a student who joined us from another school.

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 2nd November, by then the clocks would have gone back and the festive season will be in the air!

Yours sincerely,



Preit Chahal
Principal