

| Learning & Attendance Agreement

Welcome to Cockermouth School Sixth Form. During your time with us, it is our commitment to support you to make excellent progress academically, and to develop confidence and a range of skills to enable you to flourish and be well-equipped for life beyond school.

We also expect you to be fully engaged in this process. Attendance at Sixth Form is a choice, as full-time education at school beyond the age of 16 is not compulsory. You are therefore asked to make a conscious commitment to studying with us, and for this reason we ask you to read our expectations below, and sign the declaration in the *Sixth Form Transition Document* to show your acceptance of these as a condition of your place with us.

ATTITUDE TO LEARNING

The most important requirement for success at A Level/Level 3 is commitment. As a learner, you are required to:

- Consistently produce work of the highest standard you can.
- Respond positively to feedback.
- Ask questions when your understanding is not secure and you need help.
- Meet all deadlines set.

We also encourage you to:

- With our support, develop increasing independence as a learner.
- Actively seek ways to progress your learning and understanding beyond tasks set.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Alongside your timetabled lessons, you will have some periods of supervised private study and some periods of unsupervised study during which you are expected to organise your time appropriately. Independent study is an intrinsic part of the courses in the Sixth Form and you are expected to spend a **minimum** of six hours a week per subject on homework and other independent study, such as consolidating notes, checking understanding and reading around your subjects.

ENRICHMENT AND FUTURES PROGRAMME

As part of your Sixth Form curriculum, you are required to take an active part in our Enrichment and Futures Programmes. These are delivered during our Tutorial Programme, Personal Development lessons and opportunities are provided during Wednesday afternoons. All students in Year 12 are expected to undertake:

- Voluntary work (either in or out of school).
- Work experience (at least one week).
- Personal development.

Each student is required to build a Personal Portfolio to evidence these activities and will be guided by their form tutor on how to do this.

More information on our Enrichment Programme is available in the Sixth Form prospectus.

EQUIPMENT AND STUDY RESOURCES

- Sixth Formers are required to provide their own paper, files and dividers.
- Text books will be available for most courses, though students will be encouraged to purchase them from departments.
- A variety of online resources are available through the subject areas of Firefly.
- The school library and individual departments stock a range of books and other publications, which students can borrow to support extended A Level/Level 3 study.

ATTENDANCE

Excellent attendance and punctuality are expected in the Sixth Form. There is a clear correlation between full attendance and academic success. The Sixth Form target is 98%; we will therefore closely monitor all students whose attendance falls below 95%. If there are no good reasons for poor attendance, and if the situation does not improve, interventions will be put in place.

Prolonged illness

If you are ill and cannot attend school on a full-time basis, we will support you to continue your studies with us if this is possible. However, if attendance is not sufficient to enable you to progress on your course, we may ask you to suspend your studies, with the option to restart the year the following September, if that is appropriate.

PART-TIME JOBS

Whilst we recognise that students can gain a lot of valuable experience and some financial independence through having a part-time job, excessive hours doing paid employment are not encouraged while a student is on roll. Our recommendation is no more than 10-12 hours of work per week. If part-time working is impacting significantly on a student's studies, we will seek parental support to ensure that hours are reduced to an acceptable level. Sixth Form is a full-time commitment. Learning in school, plus the independent study required to do well and participation in our Enrichment Programme, should equate to a **minimum** of 40 hours a week.

USE OF THE SIXTH FORM FACILITIES

Students are expected to take care of the school facilities and respect the rules of use. The study rooms and school library are silent study spaces. Collaborative study may be undertaken in available classrooms, or by booking a slot in the common room during the school day if the student has unsupervised study periods on their timetable.

COCKERMOUTH SCHOOL VALUES

Finally, as members of Cockermouth School, we ask you to accept and sign up to our five stated values.

All members of our school will:

- **aspire** to achieve our very best in all that we do
- aim to **enjoy** and succeed by displaying a positive attitude to learning
- strive to make everyone feel **included** and valued
- show **respect** to each other in our daily interactions
- contribute fully to and celebrate in the success of our **community**.