



18<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Parents

As you will be aware, the autumn term finishes for Christmas on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December. Students will be dismissed at the slightly earlier time of 1.15pm. The new spring term begins for all students on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 8.40 am.

### **Autumn Term Timpson Bursary Cultural Activities**

Newall Green High School staff and students have, as usual, been busy this term with many activities in addition to teaching and learning. Thanks to the Timpson Bursary, students have had several opportunities throughout the Autumn Term:

- Year 7 Forest School at Quarry Bank Mill  
The Grinch at The Lowry
- Year 8 Jack and the Beanstalk at Stockport Plaza
- Year 9 Snow White at Manchester Opera House
- Year 10 Waterstones Bookshop visit including £25 voucher to spend  
Snow White at Manchester Opera House
- Year 11 Waterstones Bookshop visit including £25 voucher to spend  
The Bodyguard at The Palace Theatre

In addition, we had two 'Golden Ticket' events, which recognised students who continually meet the school's high expectations:

- Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 students attended Circus 1903 at The Lowry
- Year 11 students enjoyed an iFly skydiving experience.

Students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 have also been involved with mentoring projects – these experiences will continue throughout the remainder of the academic year.

### **Ofsted Monitoring Visit**

As many of you will be aware the school had its third Ofsted monitoring visit on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> November. The feedback from this visit is published in the letter which can be found on the school website at <https://www.newallgreenhigh.manchester.sch.uk/about-us/ofsted> and also on the main Ofsted website.

I am pleased to inform you that the lead inspector Dr David Selby has judged that:

- leaders and managers are taking effective action towards the removal of special measures

The letter reports positively on our steps to remove the school from special measures and highlights that:

- The stronger practice in school means that pupils currently in school, including those in Year 11, are learning more effectively.
- Leaders have continued to develop the wider opportunities that the school offers to pupils. These opportunities involve local businesses.

- Leaders are seeking ways for pupils to be more involved in their school.

While we have made significant progress, it is also clear that there is much more work still to do particularly:

- To further improve attendance.
- To ensure that pupils take pride in their school and themselves.

### **Uniform**

- Students should continue to wear their blazers, with shirts/blouses fully buttoned and tucked in to their waistband, with ties hanging at the appropriate length.
- Shoes should be fully black with no other colour visible.
- Students are reminded that only plain outdoor coats are permitted, to be removed in the building.
- Hooded tops or other sporting type jackets do not form part of our uniform policy and students are therefore not permitted to wear them. Those items may be confiscated for parents to collect, if worn.
- Skirts must be of a reasonable length and should not be too short. If any skirts are deemed to be too short and inappropriate for school, then parents will be contacted and students may be isolated until they appear in appropriate school uniform.

I would also like to remind all parents/carers that the following items are also not allowed in school:

- Students are not allowed to wear jewellery apart from a simple wrist watch (smart watches are not allowed).
- Body piercings are not allowed, apart from one small plain stud in each ear lobe.
- Hair styles and colours should not be extreme.
- Make-up and false eyelashes are not allowed and should not be worn.
- Acrylic nails are also not suitable for school and are not allowed.

### **Healthy Lifestyle**

As part of our focus on healthy lifestyles, we would like to remind you that fizzy drinks and energy drinks are not allowed to be brought into school. As you are aware, all students have received a free school water bottle to ensure they remain hydrated throughout the day.

### **Mobile Phones**

Please also note as a reminder to my previous letters and communications, that we will continue to enforce a strict mobile phone ban on the school site. While on school premises, mobile phones (and other electronic equipment) must be 'off and away'. We are aware that the vast majority of students already comply with this rule and we appreciate the support from the huge number of parents who have worked with us.

### **Reading and Literacy**

As you know, developing the reading of our students is one of our highest priorities. This term, we have been very busy developing reading and literacy across the school. Some of the highlights include:

- We've introduced 'Take10' reading for all year groups to make sure that everyone is reading every lesson, every day.
- Form Tutors have been reading news and magazine articles aloud to their forms to model good reading and to learning about what is happening in the world.
- Year 11 An Inspector Calls theatre production in school to help students prepare for their GCSE English Literature exam.
- All of Year 9 borrowed a copy of the novel 'Maggot Moon' and all of Year 10 borrowed a copy of the novel 'A Monster Calls' as a whole-year group reading challenge over the last half term.

- We won a 'First News' competition for eight Y9 students to travel to London and visit The Telegraph newspaper. They had a tour of the newsroom and took part in a writing and designing workshop with their editors.
- All of Year 7 and 8 received a free book to read over Christmas as part of The Book Trust's 'Book Buzz' initiative.

#### Upcoming events in 2020:

- New NGHS Book Swap events led by student leaders - students can bring in a book they already own and swap it for a new one.
- Year 7 visit to Waterstone's bookshop on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> January to buy £25 worth of books each, funded by Timpson.
- Year 9 visit to Waterstone's bookshop between 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> January to buy £25 worth of books each, funded by Timpson.
- Year 8 visit to Waterstone's bookshop between 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> January to buy £25 worth of books each, funded by Timpson.

As a parent, you can have a powerful impact on your child's reading progress. Please encourage them to:

- Complete their '**10-20 minutes of Home Reading**' each day. Doing this over the Christmas holidays is important - it will help your child to develop their reading and relax.
- Keep a record of the books they read in their planner.
- Complete 2 sessions of Bedrock at home per week [one session is part of English homework].
- If your son/daughter is using **LEXIA** in school, they are also able to complete sessions at home – all students will know how to do this. So, encourage them to complete additional sessions independently at home.

For further information, please see the 'Parent Guide to Literacy in School and Home' guidance booklet – this is enclosed for parents of Year 9 and 10 students. Parents of Year 7, 8 and 11 students will have received a copy with their school reports.

As a school, we are determined to continue on our journey to ensure that Newall Green High School is providing the very best education for every child. I am confident that we can achieve this with the support of our students and you as parents, and I would like to thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Finally, I would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and hopefully successful New Year.

With very best wishes,

Kyra Jones  
Head of School