

***Welcome back!* It's a busy start to term as always. So there's a lot of useful information here for this first Parental Update of the new academic year:**

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer break, and I'd like to welcome our new parents/carers of children in **Year 7** to Werneth School. This is your weekly update of key information from school. It is my real hope this year that we won't be talking about pandemics as a priority in our weekly update, but instead can focus solely on the education of our young people.

Thank you for your support in consenting to the **initial COVID tests**. We tested every student with consent twice over the first five days of the school term.

Year 7 have settled in very well. 110 of them enjoyed an excellent, fun-filled week of **summer school activities in August** including a visit to Chester Zoo. Year 7 students have started term positively and with lots of energy: they look very smart in their new uniforms, and they are finding their way around the building well in order to meet their new teachers and classrooms.

We also of course welcomed our ex-Year 11 students back in during August to collect their **GCSE examination results**. It was lovely to see them rewarded for their hard work in very challenging circumstances last year. There were many tears of joy mixed in as ever with a few disappointments. We wish them all well in the next stages of their lives.

We were pleased again with our GCSE examination results, and they continued the **school's 4 year trend of improved results across key indicators, subjects and groups of students**. Some of our young people achieved the very highest grades of 7-9 across every subject area, and equally some worked incredibly hard to achieve the grade 5s and 4s that they needed for their chosen college course. Importantly, the percentage of students achieving 5+ and 4+ in both English and Mathematics increased again. *Thank you to everyone in the Werneth team - families included - who contribute to that success for our young people.*

ACHIEVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS - GCSE Examination Performance - 2021 Leavers	
ENGLISH	8% increase (to 48.6%) of students achieving grade 5+ in English Language. 64% achieve grade 4+. All of our students were also entered for English Literature, with 53.7% achieving a grade 5+. This was an increase of nearly 12% on 2020 results.
MATHS	3% increase (to 35.5%) of students achieving grade 5+ in Maths. 55.1% achieve grade 4+.
SCIENCE	Increased numbers achieving three Science grades (17% of our students). 4.5% increase (to 52.8%) of students achieving grade 4+ in Double Science, with an increase to 31.8% of these students achieving 5+ in two science subjects.
HUMANITIES	11% increase in History 5+ - to 46% 2% increase in Geography 5+ to 55%, with grades 7 to 9 almost doubling (25%) 82.4% grades 9 to 7 in Religious Education

OTHER KEY HEADLINE FIGURES	<p>French 75% grades 9 to 5, with 50% at grades 7 to 9</p> <p>Computer Science 57.9% grade 5 and above.</p> <p>Grades of between 76% and 91% grade 5+ for our 4 GCSE Visual Arts subjects</p> <p>Grade 5+: Food Prep 82.4%; Music 80%; Drama 64.3%; Catering 50%; Media 57%; Hair & Beauty 64.3%</p>
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Other key information:

- We are looking forward to welcoming our Year 6 potential primary school students in to tour the school ready for next year's intake. Our **Open Evening** is **Wednesday 15th September from 5pm - 7:30pm**. Please pass this message on to any friends whose children will be joining us next year. We have a host of activities during the evening, including a Bake Off, quizzes, an acoustic set from our students and prizes for completion of activities along the way. We look forward to seeing many new faces on the evening. A reminder to parents of Werneth students that school will finish at 2pm next Wednesday: students will have lunch at 1.15pm, register at 1.55pm and leave at 2pm. School buses will be arranged for this. Our Open Evening will be as "normal" as we can make it, but please bear in mind the need to maintain safe spaces.
- As it stands, **GCSE examinations are scheduled to go ahead "as normal" in the summer**. Year 11 have a lot of work to do to prepare themselves for these crucial examinations and to start thinking about their options when they leave Werneth in the summer. A reminder to Year 11 parents and carers that the crucial **Post-16 Evening will be held in school between 6pm and 8pm on Thursday 23rd September**. That's an opportunity to hear from college and apprenticeship providers and hear their requirements. It's usually a key motivator to ensure our young people understand the importance of the forthcoming examinations.
- **Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening** is on **Thursday 14th October**.
- Another upcoming key event is for Year 7 parents and carers ... our **Year 7 Launch for Success** event with form tutors and parents is between **5pm and 7pm on Thursday 7th October**. This talks you through the key information about school as your child starts their time at secondary school.
- **Photographs in school next week**: Please note that on Tuesday (14th September), we will have photographers in school to take the Year 11 Panoramic photograph, and Y7 and Y10 individual photographs. Please make sure you are looking smart with full school uniform.
- The **electronic school gates** will remain closed from 3.00pm until 3.20pm to allow our students to leave the school premises safely. Parents should not try to access the school site to collect their child from the school car park at the end of the day. If your child leaves the school by car, we would ask you to arrange a safe drop off and pick-off point with them nearby to the school. ***We would request that parents keep the immediate area around school free of cars at the end of the school day, and are considerate of our neighbours.*** There are a small number of our **pupils who have specific needs that mean they need to be dropped off by parents**. These parents should contact their Year Inclusion Manager or our SENDCO Mrs Burke sara.burke@wernethschool.com to receive specific instructions. If this is agreed for your child, you will need to arrive on site before 3.00pm and wait at the gates until they are re-opened at 3.20pm. If you need to collect your child during the school day for a medical appointment or due to illness, please arrive at the electronic gates and press the buzzer. A member of the administration team will answer the buzzer and allow you to access the school

premises. Please report to the main school reception. When you leave the school premises, the gates will automatically open for you to exit.

- **COVID Isolations:** We have a small number of students currently isolating because they have the COVID virus. A reminder to let us know if this happens with your child, and a further reminder that there is no longer a requirement for your child to isolate if a close contact at school or in the family develops COVID - they can still come to school as long as they do not develop symptoms.
- **In the event of your child needing to isolate,** we will activate online work via the Google Classroom facility at school. By opening your school email, you will be able to gain the necessary codes, and also email your teachers if you need to do so. Please note that there will be a delay in setting up this facility for our new Year 7 students.



- This week, we were delighted to discover that the **English department has been lucky enough to win 100 different books by Black, Asian and minority ethnic authors.** We were selected to receive the prize by Penguin books from over 1600 applicants. The books are a selection of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. They will be in our library for students to read soon!

- **SCHOOL LIBRARY:** For new parents, I would just like to introduce myself and our school library. I am **Mrs H Taylor, School Librarian** and I would like to make you aware of the library opening times.

- Laptops are always available and the library is a quiet space for any student wishing to do homework. Students will all be given a login for Reading Cloud, our library catalogue system, during their next Library lesson. The link for Reading Cloud is: <https://eclipse.microlibrarian.net/> please feel free to explore. I will also be recruiting **new student librarians** very soon so if your child is interested in becoming a part of our team please tell them to come and see me in the library for an application form. **Mrs Taylor**



Library opening times

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school	Y7 and Y8	Y7 and Y8	Y7 and Y8	Ys 9, 10, 11	Ys 9, 10, 11
Break	Y7 and Y8			Ys 9, 10, 11	
Lunch	Y7 and Y8	Y7 and Y8	Y7 and Y8	Ys 9, 10, 11	Ys 9, 10, 11
After school	Y7 and Y8	Y7 and Y8	Y7 and Y8	Ys 9, 10, 11	Ys 9, 10, 11

After school library is open until 4pm each day, except on Fridays - 3.30pm close.

- A reminder that all of the **key dates for parents for this academic year, including term dates and Parents' Evenings** are on our website: <https://www.wernethschool.com/termdates>

New developments in school

As is always the case at the start of a new year, there are many **new developments** to tell you about in school. Our building has been busy with updates over the summer, as we have installed a **new literacy and numeracy**

classroom within our library, as well as a **significant update of catering resources** (see pictures above). Year 7 and 8 now have a separate indoor and outdoor catering facility, with a new canopy. It gives them their own area of school for break and lunchtime, and allows our older students in Years 9, 10 and 11 more freedom and space in our main canteen.

We also need to introduce you to our **5 new teachers, and 6 new members of our support staff**.

In their own words ...

Hello I am **Mrs Burdon**. I am an **ICT/ComputerScience/Business Studies teacher** and am looking forward to being part of the Werneth family. Before Joining Werneth I taught in Audenshaw and Huddersfield but also spent 7 years working in Tonga in the South Pacific. My spare time is spent with my family, working on my garden and reading.

Hello, I'm **Mrs Forbes**. I am a **Maths teacher** and am thrilled to become part of the Werneth community. I have two teenage children, so much of my free time is spent providing taxi services. When not doing that I love reading, walking my dog and going to Zumba, Yoga and Dance Fit classes.

Hello I am **Mr Foulkes**. I am delighted to be joining the **geography department** at Werneth. I have recently moved from the North East and in my spare time I enjoy watching and playing sports, particularly football and ice hockey.

Hello, my name is **Ms Ricker** and I am delighted to be joining Werneth as **Head of History**. I am originally from Swindon but I have taught in Greater Manchester for 17 years. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my friends and family.

Hello, I'm **Mrs Rowland**. I am an **English teacher** and I am really looking forward to being part of the Werneth community. As a mum of two I spend most of my spare time out in the park doing something with my family and my huge dog.

Hi, I'm **Miss Grendon**. I'm really excited to officially be part of the Werneth team after my graduate year here last year! I am now **Literacy Intervention Mentor** in school. In my spare time I enjoy going to the cinema and watching live music.

Hi, I'm **Mr Jones**. I have joined the **Cover Supervisor** team at Werneth and I am really excited about joining Werneth on a full time basis after my brief spell here last year in PE. In my spare time I enjoy playing and watching sport (with my main sport being football), going to the gym and listening to music.

Hi, I'm **Miss Knight**. I am delighted to be joining Werneth as **Numeracy Intervention Mentor**, working to improve Maths skills. I absolutely love maths, but before I went into teaching I used to work on cruise ships and have been to 56 countries!

Hi, I'm **Mrs Lewis**, new **Family and outreach worker** working in the Attendance Team. I am looking forward to getting to know and supporting students and their families. I enjoy time with my family. I go to the gym regularly and enjoy live music.

Hi, I'm **Mr Mairs**. I am really looking forward to my new role at Werneth as a **Cover Supervisor**. I am a trained PE and English teacher and I look forward to settling into this role and getting to know all of the students! I am also looking forward to being involved with the sport at Werneth as I will be running the Year 9 football team and Cricket in the summer!

Hello, my name is **Mr Meyers** and I am pleased to have joined Werneth School as a **Cover Supervisor**. I previously taught History at a British International School in Lima, Peru. I am looking forward to getting to know the school community here at Werneth. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, and playing bass guitar.

We welcome them all, and wish them a long, happy and successful time at our school.

Have a good weekend!