

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been some time since I have written to you with updates on what has been going on at John Spence, so here is a brief insight prior to our newsletter that will be out just before the Easter break.

Firstly, I am delighted to share with you that we are the proud winners of the ‘Youth Sport Trust 25th Anniversary Outstanding School Award’. This is a huge achievement for the school and is fantastic recognition for staff both past and present who have provided such amazing opportunities for our young people over the years. Ali Oliver, Chief Executive of the Youth Sport Trust said,

“John Spence has championed sport activism in their community. They are a worthy winner of this special prize and truly embody the mission and values of the Youth Sport Trust.”

Our extensive provision continues to see significant numbers of students engaging regularly in competitive and non-competitive sport, but we are increasingly seeing more students engaging in other opportunities that we have on offer. One example, is our Performing Arts Academy which is now up and running with students engaging in a range of activities in collaboration with the North Tyneside Music Hub; we are looking forward to more and more performances over the coming years.

We have also just completed a hugely successful ‘Futures Month’ where students in all year groups have engaged in a variety of activities relating to the world of work. A particular highlight was the new style work experience that we put in place for Year 10 where they spent one day on placement, which was then followed on the second day by a presentation to employers. The feedback from employers about all our students has been tremendous.

There are many more opportunities that I could share, but you will need to wait until the newsletter to read all about these!

In terms of other updates, we continue to be pleased with how the majority of students arrive in school on time, in the correct uniform and ready to learn; visitors to the school regularly comment on how engaged the students are and the positive atmosphere.

We are intending to simplify the uniform standards in September by making one slight change regarding footwear - we will be requiring students to wear black school shoes. We believe that this will provide parents with greater clarity around expectations and hopefully provide a cheaper alternative to some of the black footwear that is currently worn by many students. The website has been updated with guidance on what is acceptable from September 2020. In the meantime, the expectation remains that students wear all black footwear with no visible logos. Can I also remind you that leggings are not acceptable and that school trousers need to be below ankle length and not skin tight at the ankle; again guidance can be found on our website.

There is obviously a lot of concern about Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the news and I would like to reassure you all that we have very clear guidance from Public Health England regarding the steps we need to take if there are local cases. We will obviously review our procedures as when and when guidance is updated by the government.

As usual at this time of year, Year 11 are in the final stages of preparation for their GCSEs. The extent to which they have engaged with support and intervention is impressive. We have a Year 11 Parent



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Information Evening on Tuesday 10th March at 6pm where you will receive guidance on how to support your child through this challenging period as well as providing tips on revision strategies.

Finally, I am pleased to report that we received a record breaking number of applications for a place in Year 7 next year and we will again be full with an extensive waiting list. We look forward to meeting the students and their parents in the coming months.

Don't forget to look out for our newsletter in a few weeks' time.

Best wishes



Jonathan Heath

Headteacher



**YOUTH
SPORT
TRUST**



Believing in
every child's
future

YST

25TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS

WINNER