

Headteacher Update for Year 7 Parents

It has been fantastic to welcome our new Year 7 into school today and despite some early nerves, they appear to have settled very well; staff have already commented on what a lovely year group they are! Today has been about Covid tests, ability tests and familiarisation with the school and by the end of it your child knows more about us and we will know a bit more about them, which will help us to make decisions on how best to support them with their progress over the coming years. Your child will now have met their form tutors and this person will be the first point of contact for you in school if you have any queries. The following points are just a couple of updates from issues that have arisen today.

Uniform

Please do remember that if you are struggling with the cost of uniform you can just contact Mrs Blair who will be able to offer some support – helen.blair@johnspence.org.uk Students have looked very smart today and only the odd one or two have needed to be reminded about shirts being tucked in! We have ties in school if you still need to purchase one - £5.

Face Coverings

There was a little bit of confusion this morning from some students who were unsure when they should or should not wear face coverings in school. Students do not need to wear face covering outside of the building during the day, but we will ask them to put them on at the gate in the morning in preparation for entering the building. During the day they should wear face coverings when moving about corridors and queuing inside for lunch, but they do not need to wear them in classrooms. Please let Mr Crowe know if your child is exempt for any reason – simon.crowe@johnspence.org.uk .

Lunches

A large number of students did not have their QR ParentPay codes that are distributed by the Local Authority catering team meaning that we have made a note today of what each child affected has had to eat and we will organise payment for this later this week. You should have received a letter or email from the LA with details on how to log into the system so that your child can use their QR code or pin number to purchase food. If you have not received the information, please contact the team directly on parentpay@northtyneside.gov.uk

Some students in receipt of free school meals were told they had insufficient funds, which was not the case, but they spent more than their allocation of £2.25. This sum allows for a hot meal or sandwich and a piece of fruit, it does not cover water. We would encourage all students to bring their own water bottles that they can refill at fountains around the school. We will not charge for any water bought today.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions. As I have said, it has been lovely to welcome them to John Spence and I am very much looking forward to getting to know them in the coming months.

Best wishes

Jonathan Heath

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