



John Spence

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Information for September 2023

7th July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As the year draws to a close, there is much to reflect upon and to celebrate and certainly this term has seen a huge surge in the activities that we are once again able to deliver for everyone, including the return of the Challenge Walk on Tuesday 19th July.

Look out for our summer term newsletter in the next couple of weeks highlighting all the great things that have been happening, but this letter is about the planning for next year and the following details should provide all the information you need, but, as ever, please do get in touch if anything is unclear.

Uniform

We have spent some time discussing elements of our uniform standards with students as well as looking at the new government guidance on uniform costs and the overall pressures that many families are facing, which has resulted in the following minor adjustments to the standards:

Footwear – the standards now say black footwear instead of shoes. Footwear must be entirely black with no logos of a different colour. **Converse or canvas shoes are not allowed.**

PE Kit on PE days – following discussion with students, these arrangements will remain in place, but it is important that you monitor this as some students do come into school in PE kit on non-PE days. As a reminder, if shorts are not worn, only John Spence sports leggings or John Spence tracksuit bottoms are allowed. Additionally, only the John Spence ¾ zip midlayer can be worn over the PE top.

Nose studs – During the periods of time where students wore face coverings in school, many opted to get their nose pierced, which was not seen! We have spoken to some students and recognise that a nose stud is now very much the equivalent of ear piercing, so we will now allow a single, small, discreet nose stud, but this must be removed during PE lessons. Nose rings or septum piercings are not allowed. Please note our decision to allow nose studs will be reversed if PE staff are having to spend time requesting students to remove them during PE lessons.

The full Uniform Standards can be found [here](#) and are also attached to this letter. Please read these standards carefully as from September we will be sending children home to change when they do not have the correct uniform as they will not be meeting our basic expectations of the standards we expect in school. We are aware that the cost of uniform may well be an issue for you, so please contact the school if you need support as we do have uniform and funds available.

Please note that your child is also required to bring a bag to school every day.

Term Dates

These are published on the website, but please note that the followings days are teacher training days when the school will be closed to students:

5th and 6th September 2022

23rd December 2022

26th June 2023

Telephone · 0191 296 1432

Preston Road · North Shields · Tyne and Wear · NE29 9PU

office@johnspence.org.uk · www.johnspence.org.uk



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Attendance

Attendance has been a great concern this year, as it has been across the country, with more children than ever before being absent from school. The statistics are clear, children who have the lowest overall absence rate are over 4.5 times more likely to achieve 5 or more good GCSE passes than a child who has between 5 and 10 days off throughout the two years of KS4. In addition to this the impact that poor attendance can have on social and emotional development can be profound and when a child is not in school, we are unable to offer the level of support that they need.

In order to address this, we will continue to provide the best possible support that we can, but we will also be placing any student who finishes this year on less than 90% attendance on internal monitoring from the first day back in September. We hope that these two measures will help ensure a positive start to the year that we can then build upon and return to the good levels of attendance we saw pre-pandemic.

Data and Reports

We are simplifying the way we report the progress of your child from September. We currently have 5 categories, but these will be reduced to 3: Working towards, Secure, Mastered

This change when read alongside the attribute information creates a much clearer picture of how your child is doing. As is currently the case, each year group will receive 3 data reports every year; please note that in KS3 progress data is only shared for English, Maths and Science in the first two data reports.

Please look out for details on our website, and in future updates, regarding the dates for parents' evenings and tutor review days; these will be published before the end of term.

Finally, school closes at 1pm on Friday 22nd July for the summer and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Wednesday 7th September. Year 7 should arrive at normal time, in school by 8.35am for an 8.40 am start and all other year groups should arrive by 11.10am for an 11.15am start. Students should go to their form rooms and please note that there will be no break time food service on the first day back. As mentioned earlier, please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Best wishes

Jonathan Heath
Headteacher