

21st August 2025

Re: Start of the School Year

Dear Parent/Carer

Yesterday was another special day at John Spence when Year 11 picked up their exam results with many students justifiably proud of their achievements. It is always wonderful to hear the buzz in the hall and see the smiles as students celebrate their successes with one another as well as looking forward to the next phase of their lives. I will provide more details in my bulletin in the next couple of weeks, but what is clear again is that students who attend well make the most progress.

The link between attendance and outcomes in Year 11 is stark and this is why we continue to focus on reducing levels of absence as far as possible. For this reason, we have sent out letters to parents of any student who ended the year with attendance lower than 90% attendance to try and establish positive habits at the start of the year and ensure that the minimum target of 95% attendance is achieved.

Term will start on **Tuesday 2nd September** with Year 7 needing to be in school by 8.30am for 8.35am registration. The outline for the day is:

08.30		Year 7 on school site
08.35	Registration	Year 7 assembly in the main hall
09.00	Periods 1-2	Year 7 in form classes for activities
11.00	Break	Years 8 – 11 arrive (please note that the school gates will not be opened before 10.50)
11.15	Period 3	All year groups in form classes
12.15	Period 4	Normal lessons for all year groups
1.15	Lunch	
2.00	Period 5	Normal lessons for all year groups
3.00		End of the school day

From Wednesday 3rd September, all students should be in school by 8.30am and inside their form room by the 8.35am bell.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 cohort as well as those students in Years 9 and 10 who will be joining us. Please note that there will be no breaktime food service on the first day back.

Just a few reminders about uniform standards:

- One pair of ear studs (no hoops or rings) can be worn
- One small nose stud (no hoops or rings) can be worn

Headteacher Mr Jonathan Heath

John Spence Community High School, Preston Road, North Shields, NE29 9PU.

Registered address: Pele Trust, c/o Ponteland High School, The Crescent, Callerton Lane, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 9EG.
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- All jewellery is to be removed for PE
- No false nails of any kind
- No canvas shoes, including Converse, to be worn (including PE)
- No leggings other than John Spence PE leggings on PE days

With your support John Spence uniform standards remain high, and we will continue to address any infringements using our own uniform supply. Please do remember to contact the school if you are struggling with uniform costs so that we can provide support.

I am very much looking forward to another year of seeing students embrace the opportunities that we provide for them whether that is in their participation in extracurricular activities, engagement in support and intervention or their active involvement in lessons. As ever, if you do have any queries or concerns, please do make contact so that we can resolve things quickly.

Best wishes



Jonathan Heath

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