

25 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your continued support throughout this first half term of 2021-22. Whilst we're all enjoying our well-deserved break this week, we have lots to look back on with pride, and much to look forward to.

On the last day of half term many of our lower school students [and members of staff] came to school in Halloween costumes and the standard was unbelievable. I must admit to being more than a little uneasy walking around the KS2 yard that morning surrounded by blood-soaked zombies, smiling girls with axes in their backpacks, a boy being carried away by a large green alien and a set of very grey and spooky twins from the olden days....

Hopefully not too perturbed by the characters at South Avenue that day was Mrs Daniels who has recently returned from maternity to her role as Director of maths. In other staffing news, we welcome a new member of the staff team when we return after the break in the form of Laura Watson who joins the team as an additional PSO. We know how effective and supportive our pastoral system already is but recognise that the last 18 months has been a real challenge for many people. We have therefore extended our pastoral support team to respond to any potential growth in need moving forward. Laura will initially be working across years 9-13 alongside Mrs Young and Ms Cassidy who continue in their roles as before, with Ms Dryden and Miss Hills looking after years 5-8.

It was a very proud moment when our students returned from their summer break, looking extremely smart in their JCSC uniform. As you know, in September, we returned to full uniform including ties, blazers and smart shoes. Thank you so much for your continued support; our students are a credit to you for arriving to school on time, with their equipment and wearing correct uniform.

However, some of our students are wearing trousers or skirts that do not comply with our uniform policy, and they will therefore receive demerits, which lead to detentions. Could I please draw your attention to the requirement of the length of trousers and skirts, which you can find by [following this link to our website](#).

Finally, like much of the country, we have experienced a rise in covid cases amongst our community and this is being replicated across the county and beyond. Late on Friday afternoon all schools received a letter from the Northumberland County Council Directors of Education and Public Health recommending that additional preventative measures are put into place immediately after the half term break. They also sent a letter for parents, which you will find attached to the email alongside this update from me.

After considering the recommendations, we are asking for your support in the following additional measures from the day we return to school, Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November:

- **Face coverings** are to be worn in social areas and corridors for all students in **Y7 and above**, unless there are specific reasons for not doing so.
- Given that year 6 students mix very closely with year 7 students, we also recommend that **year 6** students also wear face coverings in social areas and corridors.
- We will **reintroduce sittings** in the dinner hall to limit mixing of different year groups as much as we can.
- Traditional **parents' evenings will be held online**.  
However, we currently expect both the year 5 parents' meeting with tutors and year 11 parents' meeting with ELT to go ahead in person next month due to the limited numbers of people expected on site, although an online option will also be available.
- **Do not visit either of our school sites** unless you are expected. Please call or email to arrange an appointment first.

At the moment, we do plan for year 5 swimming to continue, although this may change if cases continue to rise.

Please also encourage your child to participate in the twice weekly lateral flow testing and follow the guidance regarding PCR tests for close contacts of a positive case.

As ever, if you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Neil Rodgers'.

Neil Rodgers

Executive Headteacher