

JAn/LHe

10th September 2025

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well. The pupils have returned very positively at the start of a new academic year and I want to update you on some key information.

Summer results

Hopefully you will have seen from our website and social media output that we are very proud of the achievements of our Year 11 and Year 13 this summer. Results were a little bit better this year across a number of different measurements and this led to some exciting destinations and progression routes. For example there were more grades in the 7-9 area than last August and results were better across areas like English, science, French and the humanities.

The majority of sixth form students who applied to go to university through UCAS got into their choice of institution and course. They are pursuing degrees in subjects like history and politics, biology, zoology, and psychology and criminology. We wish them all the very best for the future and look forward to hearing about their progress in the next stage of their educational life.

Open Evening

Through this letter, I am going to readvertise our annual Open Evening on Thursday 11th September. Doors open at 4:30pm and you will have an opportunity meet lots of different staff, understand the curriculum offer and also see how our SEND and pastoral teams support the needs of all of our young people. We have been advertising this event through our usual channels (including the website and social media) please register to attend this event: <https://bit.ly/41LSlee>

The Open Evening also coincides with the launch of our new Football Academy. This exciting, curriculum-based programme will initially **be offered to all our Year 7 students, with limited spaces available for both boys and girls.** The academy is designed for pupils with a passion and expertise in football, offering a unique pathway that combines academic learning with high-quality football training during the school day. Pupils will receive a first-class coaching programme as part of their regular timetable, focusing on skill development, tactical understanding, physical fitness, and teamwork — all delivered by qualified coaching staff in a supportive and structured environment. Trials will take place on the night and through another opportunity in the coming weeks.

Standards at the start of the year

There has been a big push on expected attendance, behaviour and uniform standards at the start of term. These areas matter in terms of our drive for a top-quality school culture which values Be Kind, Work Hard, Aim High.

There were a number of media articles about the national state of school attendance on the run up to September. In our context, here in Amble, we can see a direct link between attendance and academic achievement. The Year 11 GCSE pupils who attended school for 95% of the year (or more) got some of the best results in the country. Even in the tier below, where attendance is at 90%+, we can see good outcomes. When attendance dips below this, it has a significantly negative impact on pupil achievement. Like many schools, we are finding that a combination of different factors are having an impact on regular, good attendance. Please support us by sending your child to school; we have their best interests at the heart of what we do and we can see the impact that high attendance has on qualifications and the opportunities that brings.

We continue to operate a system where we expect staff and pupils to work relationally and restoratively with each other. We want the young people to get the basics right in terms of their attitudes to learning and we want to support them when they are struggling. They have started the year well and the school feels calm and purposeful. The secret of success is maintaining this throughout the year. We have an excellent group of pastoral colleagues who know your children well and focus on the support that they need. We also have a talented group of SEND support staff who will do what they can to ensure that individual pupil needs are met inside and outside the classroom.

When I wrote to parents/carers in July, I discussed the importance of high uniform standards and we are no different to any of our neighbouring Northumberland state schools in that regard. It is early in the term but the pupils are looking a lot smarter; ties are being worn, shirts are being tucked in and blazers are on. We have also asked that pupils revert to bringing their PE kit in so that they can get changed; the uniform standard was slipping quite significantly among pupils who were coming in in non-PE leggings, tracksuits and hoodies. Our new building will have beautiful, state of the art changing facilities. We are, again, preparing to move into that new space and have a culture in place which sets a high standard.

New school build

Over the summer holiday, Kier continued to work at pace on the new build. They completed works to the drainage systems, to the existing carpark and the last steels were completed in terms of the framework. I was privileged to be invited on site on 21st August to be part of the ceremony which marked the end of this initial phase of work. The 'Golden Bolt' event was also attended by local and county politicians and we all had a chance to take in the scale of the footprint of the new build. The Northumberland Gazette reported on the event: [Golden-bolt ceremony marks Amble school milestone](#)

Yours faithfully



Mr James Andriot

Headteacher