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15 July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 7 into Year 8 Evening

I want to take this opportunity to thank you so much for attending the event on Tuesday 12 July. The turnout was fantastic which I think demonstrates the commitment and engagement of our parents / carers. The more parents are engaged in the education of their children, the more likely your child / children are to succeed in the education system. School improvement and school effectiveness research consistently shows that parental engagement is one of the key factors in securing higher student achievement. I want to also thank you for your positive feedback. I appreciate your opinions and constructive ideas. Your voice matters and play a huge part in the development of our school's character and culture.

Vision for next year

- **Embed – routines and habits**
- **Refine – based on reflections from this year, reviewing our strengths and areas for development.**
- **Independence - Why?**
 - It teaches them self-motivation as they have the freedom to find their own reasons to achieve.
 - It provides them with the belief that they are competent and capable of taking care of themselves which makes them resilient to external challenges.
 - It allows them to become good decision-makers as they have the freedom to consider various options before choosing the one they feel is best.
 - It makes them happy and healthy as they feel a great sense of achievement and success as a direct result of their own actions.

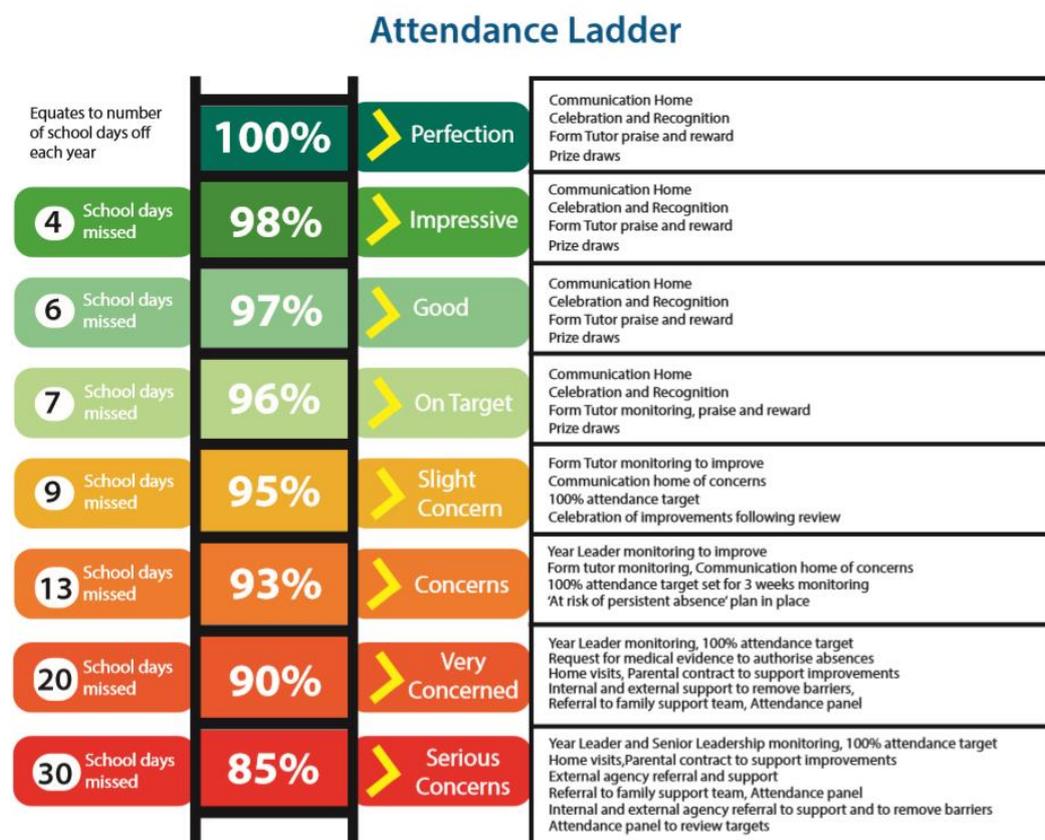
Year 8 Tutors

I have included the names and email addresses of our tutors for next year. Unfortunately we are having to say goodbye to a few members of staff that have taken on different roles and responsibilities or are moving on to new endeavours.

- BD01 - Alice Usen - ausen@northleamington.co.uk
- BD02 – Matt Guilfoyle - mguilfoyle@northleamington.co.uk
- BW01 – Stephen Sycamore - ssycamore@northleamington.co.uk
- BW02 - Elly McGwinn - emcgwinn@northleamington.co.uk
- CT01 - Sophie Davis - sdavis@northleamington.co.uk
- CT02 - Nicola Nicholls - nnicholls@northleamington.co.uk
- MR01 – Zoe Taylor – ztaylor@northleamington.co.uk
- MR02 – Gemma Knee – gknee@northleamington.co.uk
- PK01 – Steven Noakes – snoakes@northleamington.co.uk
- PK02 – Callum McMinn – cmcminn@northleamington.co.uk
- **Year Lead – Carl Royle - croyle@northleamington.co.uk**

Attendance

Years 7 and 8 have the highest attendance in the school. Every day counts! Children should target at least 96%. Did you know that over 1 school year, 95% equates to 9 days missed of school (nearly two school weeks)?



Curriculum Information- Curriculum 2022

The Curriculum offer that Year 8s will study next year will be:

Periods per fortnight														
English	Maths	Science	Games	French or German	History	Geography	RE	PSHE	Computing	Technology	Art	Textiles	Drama	Music
6	6	6	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	2

- We continue to offer a broad curriculum, with discrete subject lessons in a breadth of core subjects, humanities, physical activity and arts.
- We have spent time enhancing our already comprehensive PSHE offer and all students will have discrete lessons of this on their timetable as well as elements through tutor time. This year, this has come through our RE timetabled lesson and we are separating them out, as we recognise this is a key part of the curriculum for the development of our students.
- There is information about topics covered in all subjects on the [Learn section](#) of our website. Each subject page has a visual map outlining the topics covered each year.

Curriculum 2023 and beyond

In line with our ethos of providing a broad and balanced curriculum, accompanied by wider curriculum opportunities, we have decided that this is the right time to change our curriculum offer for 2023 onwards. As a result, our current Year 7s will retain the broadest possible curriculum offer all the way through until the end of Year 9. Over the last few years, students at North Leamington School have narrowed their curriculum choices at the end of year 8 through our Options process, choosing only 4 subjects from across the humanities, practical and arts subjects.

The revised model will enable subjects to deliver more exciting content for longer; all subjects carry real value and help students develop a wider skill and knowledge set in readiness for the delivery of examination courses in Year 10. We will be incorporating new elements into this offer such as Media and Photography experiences through relevant linked subject areas.

It is our experience that whilst some young people feel they have a very clear idea of their future pathway, and therefore which subjects they should take, others still wish to develop skills in all areas. We have had more students than ever before wanting to change options throughout Year 9, despite all advice and guidance, as well as students that have struggled to sustain the momentum of a 3 year GCSE course, as these are only written to begin in Year 10. GCSE and BTEC courses are prescribed to be delivered within 2 years of study, there is no recognised benefit to outcomes in studying GCSEs for longer, but many benefits of breadth of experience in more subjects especially those with practical and creative skills.

We are committed to continual development of our curriculum all the way from Year 7 upwards to provide the best possible platform for our students to gain both the grades, skills and experiences for future success.

FAQS from our Year 7 into 8 information evening

What home learning will be set in Year 8?

Home learning is set in line with each subject area's learning journey. This will vary from subject to subject and there is not a weekly timetable.

Homework tasks are set in Go4Schools in subjects where staff are asking students to complete tasks and bring them into school. In some areas this may be once a half term, whilst in others it will be weekly. Homework is essential in supporting the delivery of learning in school and will always be keenly matched to lesson work. Homework is vital in helping students develop skills such as independent study, resilience, the ability to research, critical thinking and reinforcement of prior learning that builds good habits for future assessments and study.

Some of our more practical subjects will not set tasks but will encourage participation in clubs.

Extra challenges are always available on the [website](#) for all subjects.

Will my child be in the same class next year?

Students will remain in the same teaching groups (N,O,R,T,L,E,A or M) and Tutor Group (BD1, CT2 etc.) next year where they are taught in these groups for the majority of their subjects. For Maths and English students are streamed, these will be reviewed but broadly the same as this year.

Will there be more CAT4 tests next year?

We have no plans to repeat the CAT4 tests in year 8 as subject assessments are a better measure of subject specific progress.

How do I see specific feedback about what my child needs to work on next?

This is available in the feedback from your child's assessments which they are given. Feedback explains what they did well and areas to develop next, both in terms of subject specific knowledge and skills. Parent evenings provide an opportunity to hear how your child is progressing in each subject. Individual class teachers or tutors, for more holistic feedback, are always contactable via the website should you have any questions.

As part of the new model will students still take GCSE RE in year 10 to reduce the number of exams in Year 11?

Yes, all students study RE across Years 7 to 10 and will continue to do so, meaning no change in preparation for this examination. It also provides a really good experience to help students feel confident heading into year 11 and as a school our students achieve very positive outcomes. Our statutory RE/PSHE delivery is taught separately in all year groups.

There will be a Year 7 Newsletter available to read on Thursday 21 July. This will include a brief synopsis of all of the positive and celebratory events that have taken place this term.

Kind regards,



Mr Royle

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