



Allerton High
7 September 2018

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Newsletter 1 September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Exceptional GCSE & A Level results 2018

Once again, students and staff worked incredibly hard, securing excellent outcomes this summer. There were some fabulous results by individual students in Years 10-13 across a broad range of subjects.

GCSE results are extremely strong again, despite considerable national change to specifications and the uncertainty around standards. Allerton's results at first analysis seem to be among the strongest in Leeds.

58% of Year 11 achieved 5 to 9 grades in both English and Maths.
Average attainment 8 is 54.6
38% achieved 7 to 9 grades in English and/or Maths
27% achieved 7 to 9 grades in all subjects

This is similar to last year's performance which placed us in the top 10% of schools nationally for attainment.

Progress 8 defines how much progress students make from their starting point. The expectation is schools will be somewhere in the region of -0.5 to +0.5. Last year our Progress 8 score was +0.88 which was outstanding and placed the school in the top 5% nationally in terms of progress. Early indications are that progress looks similarly strong, however, this measure will not be available until later in the year when all results across the country have been analysed.

Year 10 students also sat 1 or 2 GCSE examinations and performed very well. The majority sat the new 9-1 RE GCSE with one third of students achieving a Grade 7 to 9. We are very proud of their successes to date and as long as they continue to work hard, they are on track to receive some excellent results at the end of Year 11.

We were equally delighted with our Advanced Level results. 40% of grades achieved were A*-B and 70% were A*-C. Similarly to GCSE, at this stage it is too early to report progress but virtually all students secured their places in Higher Education which included entry to the University of Oxford, dentistry and medicine. We wish all students well at university, during their GAP Year or in the world of work and look forward to hearing of their future successes.

Summer 2019 Exams – Contingency Day

We received a letter in summer 2018 from the Joint Council for Qualifications that exam boards have decided to hold a Contingency Day on Wednesday 26 June 2019. This has been introduced following previous tragic events; students need a fair and equal chance to complete exams in the event of an unforeseen circumstance. The exam boards want the option to postpone an exam and reschedule it so *all* students can sit it. This means that all exam candidates must be available to sit exams from the start of the exams in May until Wednesday 26 June 2019. This decision is not a school decision but it does apply to all candidates in all schools.

Staffing news

We have welcomed all students back after the holidays and have a number of new colleagues joining us this September:

Ms S Armstrong	MFL
Ms R Carr	English
Ms M Cocquet	MFL
Ms A Holmes	Maths
Mr N Haworth	IT Technician

Mr Horsley has now been appointed as KS3 Manager working with students in Years 7-9 and supporting the respective Achievement Team Leaders.

Point of contact for parents & carers

Y7 Achievement Team Leader [KS 3 Office]	-	Miss Dowling
Y8 Achievement Team Leader [KS 3 Office]	-	Ms Campbell
Y9 Achievement Team Leader [KS 3 Office]	-	Mrs Malkinson
Y10 Achievement Team Leader [KS4 Office]	-	Miss Broadhead
Y11 Achievement Team Leader [KS4 Office]	-	Mrs Hodges
Y12 & 13 Office	-	Mr Harding/Mrs Tidman

The Achievement Team Leaders are the first point of contact for parents with children in those year groups who have issues or concerns. Parents should contact the general office as a first step and ask for the Key Stage 3 Office [Years 7-9], the Key Stage 4 Office [Years 10 & 11] or the Key Stage 5 Office [Years 12 & 13]. If the relevant Achievement Leader is not available when you call, Mr Horsley or the Achievement Coach associated with the year group will either take the call or phone you back.

I am available every Friday throughout the first half-term at 8.30am in the cafeteria if you need a quick word. A member of the Leadership Team will be available if I have to be out of school. Alternatively, you can contact my PA, Mrs Johnson-Laird if you need to make an appointment.

Holidays/Absence

The school holiday dates are on the web site, published annually in the School Calendar (a copy went home with my last Newsletter) and we strongly advise parent/carers to book their family holiday during these times. Requests for absence for holidays will not be authorised during term time and a fine will be issued if students take holiday in term time - £60 per child per parent.

The DfE has asked schools to have a particular focus on any student who has less than 90% attendance. These students are classed as Persistent Absentees. A student with 90% attendance is missing *a day of school a fortnight* on average. This will clearly have an impact on achievement. Please ensure that your child attends school every day unless s/he really is too ill to attend and contact the office to explain the absence rather than wait for us to contact you. Any requests for absence, including requests for religious observance should be via the completion of an official 'Leave of Absence Request Form' available from the Attendance Office and Reception.

If students are not at school and we receive no explanation, parents will receive an automated Truancy Call and/or text. It is essential that parents respond to the call/text; we will have to keep contacting you throughout the day without a response because we have a safeguarding responsibility to locate the child. Your support in this is much appreciated because chasing absence can take a lot of our time.

Parent Feedback, Parent View & Parents' Forum

We received some excellent feedback from parents/carers in 2017/8 via the Ofsted style questionnaire we ask parents to complete as they leave the building on Subject Consultation

Evenings. We had 614 responses last year; the results are available on the website for your information. 99% of those who completed the questionnaire stated they would recommend the school to others; 99% said their child was safe at school and 99% stated the school was well led and managed. The lowest score and the only one not 90% or over was that only 85% of parents stated that the school helps students lead healthier lifestyles. We will provide an update later in the year on the work we are doing in this area. In addition, we will focus on promoting positive social, emotional & positive health as part of the School Improvement Plan following discussion with staff, students and parents at the Parents' Forum meeting earlier this year.

Parents are able to go on-line and complete the official Parent View questionnaire at www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk . When it was first introduced there were teething problems with logging on but this has now been resolved. We appreciate your help in giving us feedback in any way.

The next meeting of Parents' Forum is on Wednesday 17 October from 6-30 to 7-45pm which provides you with an opportunity to ask about any aspect of the school's provision. All are welcome especially new Year 7 parents.

Dealing with missing children

Schools have been asked to publicise a message from West Yorkshire Police relating to keeping young people safe. The police are asking if parents could help reduce the number of missing children by ensuring that when your child's friend stays overnight at your home address, you have personally spoken to the friend's parent/carer/Guardian to ensure they know where their child is staying.

METRO - Photocards

An under 16 or 16-18 PhotoCard guarantees half fare travel on buses and trains throughout West Yorkshire and without one students could be challenged for proof of entitlement or charged full fare. Under 16 PhotoCards are free and 16-18 PhotoCards are £5; both can be ordered online in minutes from www.wymetro.com/ticketsandpasses

Behaviour & Equality Policies

Our Positive Behaviour Policy and Equality Scheme & Action Plan will be available on the school website shortly or parents can contact the school to receive a copy of either policy.

The Positive Behaviour Policy sets out our expectations of students but also contains information on when we might screen or search students, when we might use 'reasonable force' or physically restrain and when we might discipline a student for an offence outside school.

I should just point out that we can keep students in detention if we need to. We always give notice in the Personal Organiser but if a student has lost the Organiser or has not shown it to a parent, we don't re-arrange the detention but ask them to contact you to let you know where they are; we usually try to make contact too but do not always have the time. We ask that you check the Personal Organiser daily and check phone/text messages.

Detentions [1 hour] run on Monday and Thursday for students in Years 9, 10 and 11 and on Tuesday and Thursday for students in Y7 and 8. I run a Headteacher's detention on Friday [1.5 hours] which students attend if they miss a detention during the week.

We have also asked students to have a school bag big enough for text books, the Personal Organiser and a bottle of water. We expect students to fill water bottles at break and lunch; they are not allowed out of lessons to fill water bottles. Students should not bring fizzy drinks into school nor family size bags of crisps, biscuits and chocolates in line with our healthy school's policy.

If parents have any comments or issues regarding behaviour or equality, please contact Mr Hewitt in the first instance.

Cycling to school

We want to encourage students to cycle to school and have installed a cycle cage to provide additional security. Students must register with the school office if they wish to cycle to school. Parent/Carers are asked to sign a form [available from Reception] to confirm awareness of the conditions attached to bringing a cycle to school.

Please be aware of the following:

- Cycles are brought at students' own risk. We cannot guarantee safety/security
- Students should not ride cycles inside the school grounds
- Students must exit through the gates adjacent to the cycle storage area
- Students must bring their own cycle locks to secure the cycle to the posts
- Students found to be disregarding this guidance will be refused permission to bring their cycle to school

We strongly advise that students wear a cycle helmet when travelling to and from school.

Car Parking

Please do not drop your children off or pick up in the school car park; there simply is no space. We have disabled parking spaces on site which must be free for disabled users. We encourage our youngsters to walk to school but if you are collecting and use the neighbouring Park & Ride facility, please be considerate of other users.

We receive complaints about the number of parents who block the roundabout near the entrance to the Park & Ride from 8.00am by dropping off students. We have seen similar problems at the end of the day – some parents often pick students up in the bus lane or enter the Park & Ride but try to immediately turn round to leave rather than queue to get out.

The vast majority of parents are very co-operative but a few unfortunately are not; they cannot see how their behaviour is impacting on others. At a previous Parents' Forum, parents asked me to encourage you to 'name and shame' inappropriate driving by other users. Please pass the description of a vehicle, its registration number and /or the name of the driver if you know it, to Reception. We will then ask our Safer Schools Police Officer to intervene.

Data Collection

We need to keep our data up to date so please let us know of any changes to your details. A new data sheet will be sent home for Y8-11 before the end of term; please can you return it to Reception. If the details change in the future, please provide the office with any changes as we want to send information electronically and we also text parents with reminders so your co-operation with this is vital. If you have moved house please let us know the new address.

We would also appreciate it if parents would contact school if they have ever received Free School Meals, have an adopted child or their circumstances have changed and they now are entitled to universal credit. If school is unaware, we cannot claim additional funding which will benefit your youngster. We understand that this information is sensitive but please be reassured, the conversation will be completely confidential; please phone the Finance Office and ask for Mrs Calvert.

Extra-curricular Activities

A full programme of activities will be distributed in Coaching during the week beginning 10 September; the programme will also be available on the website.

Older students have coursework catch-up sessions on Tuesday and Thursday until 4.30pm. They will be stretched by the volume of work expected at GCSE but there is Support Club available Monday-Thursday until 4.00pm for students in all years where members of staff are available to help students with projects and homework.

Catering

A reminder that 'Chartwells' delivers our catering service. You can make on-line payments via Parent Pay [www.parentpay.com]. You should have personal log in details but can contact the school's Finance Office if this is a problem. Cheques made payable to 'Chartwells' can be handed to the Catering Manager and students can use the REVAL machines to top up their accounts if you prefer. Members of staff at Chartwells have made us aware of a slight increase in prices and a copy of their price list will be on our website shortly together with the 'Grab Bag' form available for students to use each day. 'Grab Bag' forms are also available from the cafeteria. The idea is students order in advance and avoid the queues which are particularly busy in September as our new intake become familiar with the system.

Personal Organiser

All students are issued with a Personal Organiser so they can plan their learning and keep information relating to school in a central place. Students should be logging homework details and information relating to progress. It is important that students always have the Organiser with them and we will be contacting you if they forget it to ask you to bring it in. The Personal Organiser should be graffiti free. If it is unfit for purpose a replacement costs £4.50.

Dress Code

We have not changed the uniform requirements other than to insist girls and boys wear more tailored trousers rather than the legging/drain pipe thin style which seems to be the fashion just now. Students should be wearing all black shoes and if they are not, we have provided a pair of plain black plimsolls for the day. If students are not following the dress code for whatever reason, they are isolated at break and lunch so others do not follow suit thinking we have changed our approach on any aspect of uniform policy.

We appreciate your support in maintaining high standards of dress in school.

10% Off Tickets to Ilkley Literature Festival for Allerton High School Parents

Ilkley Literature Festival is the largest and liveliest literature festival in the North of England, taking place over 17 days from 28 September to 14 October and welcoming the very best writers, poets and speakers to the town. Festival highlights this year include **Dan Snow, Susan Calman, Alan Bennett, Moeen Ali, John Simpson and Jacqueline Wilson.**

As part of their year round activities in schools across Leeds and Bradford, Ilkley Literature Festival regularly work with Allerton High School on a number of events and projects. ILF would like to show you some more of what they do, so are offering Allerton High School parents **10% off tickets** to Festival events.

Book online at www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org.uk and use the code **Allerton** to receive 10% off tickets to Festival events!

(Offer excludes Nadiya Hussain event, terms and conditions apply.)

Year 8 Team Building

Year 8 students have all participated in a team building day at Nell Bank Centre in Ilkley during the first week back. We used to organise a residential experience at the beginning of Year 8 but only half of students wanted to do it and we felt it was important *everyone* got involved to ensure all students get off to a positive start. It seems to have gone very well with fabulous reports from Nell Bank staff about how impressive our youngsters have been. We intend to offer a residential experience to students but it will be later in their school career and we will send details home once plans are finalised.

Events this half-term

We have a Welcome Evening for Year 12 Parent/Carers on Thursday 13 September at 6.30pm. It is important that Year 12 students get off to a very good start in this new Key Stage. We also have a Welcome Evening for Year 7 Parent/Carers on Tuesday 3 October from 5pm. This is an

opportunity for parents to meet their son/daughter's Coach but there are also short presentations about our systems such as Positive Behaviour and how we track progress which parents can also drop into; additional information will be distributed by Miss Dowling but we look forward to meeting new parents on that night.

- September 5 – 7 - Y8 Teambuilding Days
- September 13 - Y12 Welcome Evening for parents/carers at 6-30pm
- September 20 - GCSE English/Maths/Science Information Evening for Y10/11 Full Governors 7pm
- September 21 - Visit by Comic author/artist – Gary Erskine
- September 27 - Training Day and Open Evening at 6pm for Y6 students [School closed to students though some will be helping out]
- October 3 - Year 7 Welcome Evening from 5pm
- October 10 - Y11 Subject Consultation Evening 4.30-7.30pm
- October 12 - Visit by poet Imtraz Dharker [tbc]
- October 15 - Y8 HPV1 Immunisations
- October 17 - Curriculum Enrichment Day – students have a different time-table Parents' Forum at 6-30pm. All welcome.
- October 22 - Y8 HPV 1 mop up
- October 23 - Y10 Subject Consultation Evening 4.30-7.30pm
- October 26 - Presentation of GCSE certificates to Year 12 from 9-00am
Half-term holiday 26 October – 2 November
- November 5 - School opens 8.30am
Progress Review (1) home this week for all year groups except Y7 & 12
U13 UCAS reports home

During this half-term, we will be formally consulting with students in Year 12 about how we prepared them for the GCSE examinations in summer 2018 and we will consult with Year 7 students about the transition programme and how we supported them in their move to Allerton High.

I appreciate your support as we start another academic year and look forward to continued success in the future.



Elaine Silson
Headteacher



enabling young people to achieve success