



Allerton High
November 2018

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Newsletter 2, November 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Our first Progress Review [0123] has been completed and indicates that the vast majority of students are working hard and making good progress. Achievement Leaders are contacting parents/carers where students are not working to potential in a number of subjects so that we can agree strategies to get students back on track.

We had an excellent Open Evening for prospective Y6 students at the end of September and we enjoyed a lovely morning celebrating the GCSE success of 2018 with students and their parents/carers just before the half-term break. It was also excellent to see so many attending the recent Year 7 and 12 Welcome Evenings and the KS4 Information Evening. Resources and materials shared on these evenings are available on the school website. The Y8 Teambuilding Day to Nell Bank Outdoor Centre was excellent – my thanks to Mr Nicholas and Mrs Campbell for organising it. The Year 8 Residential takes place at the end of the academic year which is something our young people should be looking forward to.

We have recently practiced our emergency procedures which involved all members of the school community completing a fire drill but also remaining *in school* during a shelter alert [used when there is a threat outside the school such as a swarm of bees] and remaining *in classrooms* during a lockdown alert [used when there is a threat in school]. These things are always difficult but I was impressed by the maturity of our young people and pleased that in general, our approaches worked well; running everything through gave us a chance to tweak procedures and systems so it was very worthwhile.

GCSE Results 2018

The unvalidated 2018 GCSE results have been made available by the DfE and confirm that once again our students performed extremely well. The headlines are as follows:

Key Stage 4 Headlines

- **Progress 8 is +0.69** [+0.65 has been reported by the DfE but a final checking exercise is being completed and outcomes are not validated until later in the academic year] The national average is -0.02 and the average in Leeds is -0.02. Allerton High is the top performing school in Leeds against this measure in 2018.
- **59%** of students achieved 9-5 grades (strong passes) in English and in Maths; the DfE reports 56% for Allerton at this moment in time – again this should be updated later. 59% is significantly higher than the national and Leeds averages which are both 40%
- **English Baccalaureate average points score is 4.83**; that is, the average grade across Maths, English, 2 Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language and History or Geography. The national average is 3.83 and the average in Leeds is 3.85.
- **Average attainment across 8 subjects is 55.0 or grade B.** The national average is **44.3** and the average in Leeds is **44.6**. This shows that as well as performing significantly better than national average in English and Maths, students perform extremely well across all of their subjects.

The Progress 8 score measures students' progress from their starting point across eight subjects and a score of +0.69 means that on average all of our students achieved not far off a full grade better than expected in ALL subjects.

Students and staff worked incredibly hard to achieve these results and it is great to see the hard work pay off.

Access to Support, Advice and Guidance outside of school hours

As part of our pastoral work in school, we occasionally provide support and guidance to students who are suffering from low mood, self-harm or who have suicidal thoughts. During school holidays or out of school hours a small number of students have emailed members of staff to ask for support. Members of staff do not however routinely check their emails beyond 4pm on working days or during the holidays and this can mean that requests for support will not be seen nor acted upon. During this half term we will provide further information to students about agencies that offer support outside of school hours.

If you or your child require support outside of school hours we advise that you contact one of the following agencies:

NSPCC Childline	Tel: 0800 1111
The Samaritans	Tel: 116 123
The Marketplace	Tel: 0113 2461659
Teen Connect	Tel: 0808 800 1212

Bad weather procedures

The decision to close the school for severe weather is usually taken at around 7am and is published shortly after that on the LCC and school websites <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/School-closures.aspx> or <http://www.allertonhigh.org.uk/> and announced on local radio stations including Radio Aired 96.3 FM and Radio Leeds 92.4 FM. We will send a communication via text so having up to date contact information is vital. Please pass on any new details to Reception.

Charity work

On Friday 16 November we are having a non-uniform day to support 'Children in Need.' Students are asked to bring a £1 contribution which will be collected on the day. The money raised will be donated to 'Children in Need.'

We will also be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 14 December to support 'Save the Children' in their annual Christmas Jumper Day. There is no requirement to wear a Christmas jumper – students may prefer to wear general non-uniform. However, on both days normal school rules apply regarding hair colour.

We would ask for your support in ensuring students are appropriately dressed in clothing that is not revealing. Crop tops, shorts, vest tops, and very short skirts are not appropriate clothing for school. Students who are considered inappropriately dressed will be sent home to get changed.

Should you have any queries about the non-uniform days, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Hodges.

Students and staff have already been raising money for local and national charities. Baking cakes for Macmillan Cancer Research always goes down well in school. This year, Y12 raised £418.24 and MFL students raised £209.85. In addition, each year group has nominated a charity to support this year as follows:

Year 7	–	Simon on the Street (Homeless)
Year 8	–	Macmillan
Year 9	–	Rainbow Trust (supports families with a seriously ill child)
Year 10	–	SANE (mental health)
Year 11	–	NSPCC
Post 16	–	CARE (international poverty and health)

Students will be bringing home a separate letter informing you of our Gift Collection taking place in December when we collect food, toys, books and toiletries for charities and members of the local community. We hope you can contribute and look forward to your support again this year.

Study Support

We run after school support sessions for students in Y9/10/11 on Tuesday and Thursday 2.50-4pm. Students can attend voluntarily for support but we direct some students to attend. Please ensure your son/daughter attends if there is a note in the Personal Organiser and/or you receive a text message, usually sent Monday of each week.

Rewards

Following feedback from students and parents/ carers we are continuing a new reward system this year. Students are given stamps in lessons and for full attendance each week. 5 of these stamps equate to an EPIC (Excellence Participation Improvement Consistency). The EPICs are recorded on page 122 of students' planners. Once a student has 5 EPICs they can either cash these in for a reward or save them towards a more substantial reward. Students will also receive extra EPICs for getting no codes or getting very good 0123 scores or reports during the course of the year.

Admissions

The consultation about changes to the Leeds City Council admissions policy has now been launched and runs until 7 December 2018. There are several proposed changes to the policy (for both primary and secondary) which are relatively minor. One fundamental change proposed is to introduce catchment areas for community and voluntary controlled primary schools.

Please follow the link below to access the consultation document, proposed admissions policy, on-line survey and interactive map:

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-places/school-admissions-policy-consultation>

Extra-Curricular Activities

Please note the Extra-Curricular Activities list for 2018-19 is on the web-site page (under the Prospectus tab – Appendix 2.) Cancellations are announced at break and lunch during the school day and students are expected to phone home if they need to communicate that information; alternatively, students can attend Homework Club where they will be supervised until 4pm. Details of sports fixtures are given to the students involved on a weekly basis or before that if teachers have the details. If a fixture is cancelled, we ask students to contact home themselves but we also try send a text message to the relevant parents. Please contact the school office if you want a paper copy of the extra-curricular programme.

Medication guidelines

We are updating our policy on medication in school. We do not encourage medication being kept in school unless absolutely necessary and with signed parental consent. Leeds City Council's Health & Safety Team recommends students needing to take Ibuprofen should buy long-lasting Ibuprofen/Feminax which can last up to 8 hours if taken at home before school.

Any prescription medication that is to be taken 3 times a day or less should be administered at home by parent/carers and not brought in to school. Please speak with Mrs Russell in the General Office if you need to organize medication in school for your youngster.

Complaints

We do not receive many complaints and are always anxious to resolve any issues informally; our formal policy is available on the web-site. Please contact the relevant Achievement Leader, if you have an issue. If for any reason this is difficult please contact my PA, Mrs Johnson-Laird so that I can look into things for you.

Achievement Leaders:

Miss Dowling	-	Year 7
Mrs Campbell	-	Year 8
Mrs Malkinson	-	Year 9
Miss Broadhead	-	Year 10

Mrs Hodges - Year 11
Mr Harding - Post-16

Please phone the general office who will connect you.

School Gateway

Please see the attached letter for your information. It provides guidance on how you can activate your account to access information on your child's timetable, achievements and assessment results.

Twitter

We are very excited to have launched our school Twitter account @AllyHighLeeds this term. It showcases some of the fantastic opportunities we offer to our young people and celebrates the successes of our students, staff and the whole community. If you use twitter, we hope you will follow our page for regular updates. However, we ask that you think carefully before re-tweeting (especially with comments) as the individuals in our tweets have only given their consent for the school's use on Twitter. We aim to inform and to showcase the positives of Allerton High School, and do not encourage use of social media for negative comment. The school cannot take responsibility for comments that may be added to our Tweets by individuals using other Twitter accounts. Inappropriate use will result in accounts being blocked.

National Online Safety Free Guide

National Online Safety has created a new guide as part of its #WakeUpWednesday campaign. The guide includes 7 questions to get 'the conversation' going in relation to your child's internet usage. Engaging in regular, two-way communication with children about online activities is a really important way of building trust and highlighting the dangers they are exposed to every day.

To obtain your copy:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety/status/1060140712686161927>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety/photos/a.1681508315488685/1914184988887682/?type=3&theater>

Picking up/dropping off students

Residents on Nursery Lane and Birkdale Drive have complained recently about parking at the start and end of the school day. Please park sensibly. Can I also ask again that those using the 'Park & Ride' facility enter the car park and find a space to park rather than hovering at the entrance as this causes congestion on the ring road.

Events this half-term

- November 5 - Progress Review home this week for all except Y7 & Y12
English/Maths GCSE examinations this week
- November 7 - Training Day; early finish 12 noon for all students.**
- November 12 - School Book Fair until 15 November
- November 13 - Governors' Resources Committee
- November 14 - Post 16 Information Evening for Y11 students from 6.15pm
- November 16 - Non Uniform Day – to support Children in Need**
- November 20 - Y13 Subject Consultation Evening
- November 22 - Governors' Inclusion Committee
- November 27 - Governors' Learning & Curriculum meeting
- November 28 - Music Competition Final 7pm – tickets will be available in school
- November 29 - Y9 Subject Consultation Evening 4.30-7.30pm
- December 3 - Gift Collection assemblies this week
Post 16 Taster Day for Y11
- December 4 - Post 16 Taster Day for Y11
Y7 Celebration of Festivals from 3.15-4.15pm (green band)
- December 5 - Y7 Celebration of Festivals from 3.15-4.15pm (white band)
- December 6 - Maecare Christmas party and Y7 Disco (tbc)
- December 10 - Y11 mock exams until 18 December
- December 11 - Y7 Subject Consultation Evening 4.30-7.30pm
Full Governors' meeting

- December 13 - 6pm GCSE C1 Drama exam
- December 14 - Non Uniform / Christmas Jumper Day – to support Save the Children**
- December 19 - 7pm Winter Concert
- December 21 - Y11 & Y9 photographs and deadline for Post-16 applications
- December 21 - School closes for Christmas holidays at 1pm
- January 7 - School opens 8.30am**

On the last day of term, 21 December, students are dismissed from 1pm. Students eligible for free school meals will be allowed to spend their entitlement at break time but any student wishing to stay in school who requires lunch must order a Grab Bag (packed lunch) by the end of the school day on Tuesday 18 December. Any students remaining in school until the usual time will be supervised by staff. If you want your son/daughter to stay until the end of the day, please complete the reply slip below or contact reception. School opens for students on Monday 7 January 2019.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Elaine Silson
Headteacher

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Please return to School Reception by Monday 17 December

I would like of Coaching Group

to remain in school until 2.50pm on Friday 21 December.

Parent/Carer name Signature



enabling young people to achieve success