



Weekly Bulletin – 26 April 2024

At our school, we place a lot of emphasis on making sure everyone feels like they are part of our school community, no matter how different we are from one another. This week we spent time praying for everyone within our school, including staff and students. We want to strive to make it a kinder and more compassionate place to learn, as well as making the most of the opportunities we have – to be hard-working students, to inspire others and to know that God delights in us when we follow in Jesus' footsteps: *'So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others'*.

Romans 12:5

ASD Family Support Drop-in Sessions – New dates added

Free support and advice in your local area. 0-19 years. No diagnosis needed. Please see attached flyer.

Water Bottles

Students are encouraged to drink water throughout the day. All students should bring a water bottle to school and there are water coolers available at break and lunch time to refill their bottles. Energy/fizzy drinks are not allowed in the academy and will be confiscated.

Year 7 Parents Evening

Our Year 7 Parents' Evening is scheduled for Wednesday 1 May, 2024. The evening runs from 4:00pm to 7:30pm and is carried out via online meetings using School Cloud. Year 7 parents should refer to the email sent previously which details how to access School Cloud and make appointments.

Sixth Form

Apply: Cambridge

The University of Cambridge's Widening Participation team wish to inform you that **applications for this year's Apply: Cambridge programme are now open!**

It is a specialist and free programme designed to support high attaining students make competitive applications to the University of Cambridge. It's for students in Year 12 who intend to make an application to Cambridge in October 2024 for entry in October 2025.

The programme will be delivered by Cambridge staff and Admissions Tutors who will be sharing their expertise on the application process. Participants will be supported every step of the way over a 6-month period, helping them navigate the process and effectively prepare for their Cambridge application. The programme will be delivered entirely online and will run from July 2024 until the end of January 2025. Participants will receive:

- Informational webinars
- Interactive workshops
- Supercurricular learning opportunities
- Q&A sessions with Admissions Tutors and current students



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- Mentoring from a current University of Cambridge student, including:
 - virtual 1-1 mentoring over a text-based app and website
 - monthly group mentoring meetings with your mentor over Zoom
 - personal statement feedback

To learn more about the programme and to review the eligibility and priority criteria, please visit: www.cam.ac.uk/apply-cambridge

Applications close on **Wednesday 1st May 2024 at 9am**. Here is a link to the student application form: https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8DpVkl7iNI7J9mS

UCAT 2024: Admissions for Medicine and Dentistry

UCAT now forms part of the entry requirements for all UK medical and dental schools. Students applying for medicine or dentistry for 2025 entry must sit the UCAT by 26 September 2024. Please visit the UCAT website for information on how to book and prepare for the test: [UCAT](#)

Sixth Form Revision Materials

Whether your child is in Year 12 or Year 13, they're approaching important assessments over the coming weeks. All students have been given a handy guide with some top tips to how to revise and how to look after their mental health and wellbeing at this time. PDF versions of these booklets are attached, and are available on the school website.

Joshua Graham, Year 13 "Voice of the Youth"

As part of his work with Leading Link, last week, Josh took part in a Zoom meeting with the Secretary of State, Gillian Keegan, and her senior stakeholders, as well as various heads of department within the Department for Education. Josh was there as a "voice of the youth" to talk about holiday activity programmes and leadership opportunities he's had in his role on the Young Leader programme. Representatives from the Department for Education were extremely impressed, and commented on how confidently Josh spoke about why he thinks it's important that such programmes are available.

We're very proud of Josh and would like to thank Leading Link for offering this opportunity to him.

Year 12 Eco Influencers

Our ongoing wildlife and conservation group, the Eco Influencers, have been surveying the air quality, animal and plant life and have started a longer-term study of squirrels in the Bedlington area. All of this work is helping us find out more about our local community and the diversity of wildlife, and giving our school an opportunity to make a lasting contribution to preserving and improving our local environment.

Year 11 - The start of exam season 2024

This half term marks the start of the GCSE exams in earnest for our Year 11s. It is clear that the majority of students have made a concerted effort to dedicate some of their Easter break to exam preparation. Students are working hard both in and out of school to ensure they are ready to do their absolute best on the day.

Before the Easter holidays, students attended a session delivered by the BeYou mental health team about managing exam stress. Students felt this session was really helpful in identifying the different ways in which they deal with stress, the most helpful strategies to overcome this and knowing when to ask for help. It was great to see students talking openly about how they felt in the lead up to their exams and engaging in conversations about their mental health and wellbeing. Some of the tips our students were encouraged to remember were:

- Don't compare yourself with others – you are all on your own learning journey!
- Try not to avoid the things that are making you stressed or worried by burying your head in the sand. Make a plan for what you need to do, breaking down large tasks that feel overwhelming, in order to get to where you want to be.
- Speak to the people around you who can help you with stress and worry, like your parents, teachers or friends.
- Identify the things that make you feel calm and make sure you keep time in your schedule to do these things. This could be physical activity, mindful practices, reading or playing games with friends – whatever it is you enjoy, make sure it remains a priority amongst this busy time!

Now that school has resumed, our revision timetable is back up and running. It's fantastic to see students staying behind after school to work with teachers to revise and prepare for their exams. Please see below the timetable for revision this half term:

Monday lunchtime	Tuesday lunchtime	Wednesday lunchtime	Thursday lunchtime	Friday lunchtime
Chemistry	RE	Business	Physics	Biology
After school	After school	After school	After school	After school
Eng Lang H102	Geography	History RE	Maths	Chemistry
Eng Lit H003		Business	Science rotation of subjects (foundation tier)	

This week, a number of students have completed their Spanish speaking exams. These exams require students to answer a number of questions with confidence and fluency. Mr Jones and Mrs Johnson have been blown away by the skills demonstrated by our Y11s, commenting on how proud they are of the diligent approach our students have taken to prepare and show off everything they've learnt over the last few years!

Our GCSE Art students also have their practical exam this week, which will require two days of focused work that follows significant planning and preparation. We can't wait to see what our artists produce! If you are looking for further information about how to support your child's revision and exam stress at home, please see the links below: · <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zmy692p> · <https://www.beyonorthumberland.nhs.uk/support/young-persons-support/coping-with-everyday-life-experiences/exam-stress> · <https://quizlet.com/gb> · <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3> · <https://getadapt.co.uk/> · <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzCEJvED0U&t=4s> (how to revise with flashcards)

Lastly, please see below a list of key dates for Y11:

- 8th May – deadline for ordering leaver's hoodies
- 24th May – leaver's liturgy and celebrations
- 27th June – Prom
- 22nd August – GCSE Results Day

Attendance – Moments Matters, Attendance Counts

Thank you for your continued support with our drive for good attendance. If your child takes too much time off school, they will become categorised as PA or persistently absent. (Attendance below 90% = persistent absence).

The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

- Nationally in 2018/19, **36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs**, compared with 84% of regular attenders above 90%.

It's never too late to benefit from good attendance:

- **More than half (54%) of pupils who were PA in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, passed at least 5 GCSEs**, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years.

But always remember attendance is important for more than just attainment:

- Regular school attendance can facilitate **positive peer relationships**, which is a protective factor for wellbeing.

To further support you help overcome any barriers to attendance the following link provides advice and guidance for parent on school attendance:

<https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2022/12/aaa-guide-for-parents-on-school-attendance.pdf>

Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful weekend.



Mr K Shepherd
Headteacher

Autism Family Drop In Sessions



Do you have a child aged 0-19 years? Come along for a cuppa and chat and to meet other parents.
No diagnosis needed!

Join us on:

Wednesday 8th May 2024 1-3pm
Ashington Family Hub - Alexandra Road, Ashington, NE63 9EF

Thursday 23rd May 2024 2.30-4.30pm
The Community Hub at Cramlington - Forum Way, Manor Walks Shopping Centre, Cramlington, NE23 6YB (Next to Concordia)

Facilitators - robyn.robinson@northumberland.gov.uk and
adelle.hicks@northumberland.gov.uk

Inclusive Education Services

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Our vision: One council that works for everyone Our values: Residents first, Excellence and quality, Respect, Keeping our communities safe and well