



Head Teacher: Mr D R Thompson

DRT/KM

15 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of term, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you pupils' achievements and whole-school events from the Autumn Term, as well providing you with some key dates for our return in January.

## KEY DATES



- As parents and carers are aware, school will finish at 12.00pm on Friday 17 of December.
- Monday 3 January is a Bank Holiday, so the school will be closed.
- Tuesday 4 January is a staff training day, meaning that the school is closed to pupils.
- Testing for pupils in Years 7, 10 and 11 will take place on Wednesday 5 January, with pupils in those year groups returning to school on Thursday 6 January at the normal time. Testing will be done in batches, with times to be sent out to parents/carers before Wednesday 5 January.
- Testing for pupils in Years 8 and 9 takes place on Thursday 6 January. Again, specific times will be sent out to parents/carers in the new year.
- All pupils will be in school on Friday 7 January at the normal time.
- Pupils break up for half term on Friday 18 February, returning on Monday 28 February.
- We break up for the Easter holidays on Thursday 8 April, with pupils returning to school on Monday 25 April.

## STAFF AND GOVERNOR NEWS



After almost two decades of leading the Governing Body, our Chair of Governors is retiring at the end of term. He was instrumental in steering the school through the Building Schools for the Future Programme in the mid-2000s. The fantastic facilities the school has today were secured under his leadership. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chair of Governors for his dedicated service to the school and for his unwavering commitment in ensuring the very best for our pupils. We wish him well in his retirement.

Another of our governors, who has given 25 years of dedicated service to the school, is also retiring at the end of term. We acknowledge her huge contribution to the education and well-being of several generations of young people in our local community.

Mrs Edmonson, who has been a governor since 1998, is also stepping down at Christmas. Mrs Edmondson has been an active member of the Governing Body and a key member of its sub-committee. We wish Mrs Edmondson a happy retirement.

We thank all 3 governors for the significant contribution they have made to the school and local community and wish them all well for the future.

Councillor Adam Ellison, a former pupil of the school, will take over as Chair of Governors in January. Mr Ellison is Councillor for Hebburn North and Lead Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families at South Tyneside Council.



Mrs Coyne is stepping down from her position of Vice Chair of Governors at the end of term, but she will remain on the Governing Board. Mr G Thompson will be Acting Vice Chair of Governors from January.

Miss Robinson, who is part of our Classroom Assistant team, is sadly leaving us at Christmas to pursue a different career. We thank her for her contribution to the school and wish her well for the future.

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR THE NEW TERM**



### **Basic Equipment**

A huge thank you to parents and carers for your support with basic equipment throughout the term. Pupils are coming to school fully equipped for learning, which is wonderful to see. Pupils should continue to bring their basic equipment with them every day in the new term.

#### ***What is meant by the term 'basic equipment'?***

The following items of stationery constitute your child's 'basic equipment': a blue or black pen, pencil, ruler, green pen and planner. Your child is expected to bring all of these items with them to school every day. They should also have a school bag to carry books, folders, homework and PE kit.

#### ***What happens if my child forgets or loses their basic equipment?***

Equipment checks will take place at the start of each new school day. If your child is missing their basic equipment, or any part of it, they will be issued with a detention during period 1. At the start of each new lesson, your child will be asked to place their basic equipment on their desk to show that they are prepared for the lesson and ready to learn. Our prefect team will continue to run a stationery shop every day, on morning entry, so that missing items can be replaced promptly and inexpensively. Please refer to the price list below for further information. The stationery shop can be found in the packed lunch area every morning from 8.30am.

#### ***Why does my child need these items every day?***

It is hugely important that children are prepared for learning. As part of our marking policy, your child will be required to use a green pen when self-assessing and/or developing work marked by their teachers. We also have high expectations in relation to how classwork should be presented. For example, pupils will need a ruler to underline the date and title, and a pencil for any diagrams or sketches that may need to be recorded in their books. Planners will be used to record homework and to help pupils ensure that homework is handed in on time; they will also be used to track individual attendance percentages on a weekly basis.

### **Price List**

- Blue/black pen: 20p
- Pencil: 20p
- Ruler (15cm): 30p
- Ruler (30cms): 50p
- Green pen: 20p
- Replacement planners can be bought from the tutors' rooms for £1.

## **UNIFORM**



As a school, we have high expectations in relation to all aspects of school life, including the wearing of school uniform. It gives pupils a sense of belonging and is an important part of our corporate image. We encourage pupils to have a sense of pride in their own personal appearance and particularly in the

wearing of school uniform, which is looked upon as their *badge of membership* of Hebburn Comprehensive School. We ask for your full support in ensuring that your child always wears the correct uniform. It is important that staff are not wasting valuable teaching and learning time dealing with issues relating to uniform.

Some important reminders:

- Blazers are a compulsory part of school uniform. They should not be replaced with an alternative outer layer/jacket.
- Leggings are **not** part of school uniform.
- Tube skirts/elasticated skirts are not acceptable. School skirts should be **knee length**.
- Pupils are required to wear **black, polishable footwear**; canvas/material footwear is not permitted. As you are already aware, boots are not allowed.
- No false, gel or acrylic nails.
- No false eyelashes.
- No jewellery.

Uniform list for 2021-2022 can be found here: [School Uniform - Hebburn Comprehensive School](#)

Equipment list for 2021-2022 can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3GBV0KC>

## YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

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Our thanks again to all pupils and parents who attended our Open Evening in September. There were lots of happy children engrossed in all of the exciting activities on offer around the school. We were delighted with all of the positive feedback and look forward to meeting families again in September.



## YEAR 11

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In November, as part of our first assessment cycle, Year 11 students sat their GCSE mock examinations. The buy-in to additional revision sessions and study support in the run up to the exams was generally very good, but a more consistent buy-in from some pupils would increase their chances of success in the summer. We are planning to hold another pizza and chips revision night.

As parents, carers and students will know, examinations are scheduled to take place as normal this year. It is hugely important, therefore that students return to school with a real determination and focus. As has been the case in the first term, there will be lots of additional study support sessions on offer across a range of subjects.

## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

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Various activities took place during anti-bullying week, to raise awareness of this extremely serious issue.



### A KINDNESS RAINBOW



Pupils were asked to create a collage with “kind words”, which was then transformed into a “kindness rainbow” that was displayed in school.

### THE ‘APPRECIATION STATION’



Pupils were encouraged to show appreciation of someone by writing a list of kind words about them.

Songs, with the themes of friendship and kindness, were played through the school's PA system at key points of the day.

### CHILDREN IN NEED

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In November we raised the sum of £203.14 for Children in Need. Well done to all involved!



### HALLOWEEN DISCO

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Pupils in Year 8 enjoyed a Halloween disco in school on Friday 22 October.



### WEAR A CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

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On Friday 10 December, pupils took part in 'wear a Christmas Jumper Day', raising the sum of £82.50 for charity.



### 'PENNIES FOR PEOPLE'

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A huge thank you to both staff and pupils, who have raised an amazing £200 to help local community projects.



### VOICES FOR EQUALITY

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30 pupils from across Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in a 2-day programme called 'Voices for Equality' with The Anne Frank Trust. They explored the story of Anne Frank and created display work to highlight different prejudices in society today.



### FOOD BANK

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For our annual Christmas Dinner Hamper appeal, pupils kindly donated items for the local community. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



### KEY PROJECT

Year 8 pupils, Lily, Erin and Ami were granted £250 for their 'Key' project. With the money they bought and wrapped gifts for 70 elderly residents within 2 local care homes. Well done to everyone involved!



### EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

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Pupils, across year groups, have been taking part in our extensive range of extra-curricular clubs after school: [After School Clubs - Hebburn Comprehensive School](#). Well done to all pupils involved. We would like to see even more pupils involved next term!



### 'THE HOUSE WITH CHICKEN LEGS'

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On Tuesday 30 November, Miss Graham and 7H1 took part in a live Q&A with Author Sophie Anderson discussing her book 'The House with Chicken Legs'.



### LITTER PICKING

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The Year 8 school council took part in a litter pick to help keep the school tidy.



### CHRISTMAS CARDS TO OUR SENIOR RESIDENTS

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Pupils in Year 8 have also designed Christmas cards to send to our local senior residents. Well done to all involved.



## ROCK SCHOOL DRUM EXAMS

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Congratulations to Reece and Ruby for passing their Rock School Drum Exams with merit. A fantastic achievement!



## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

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European Day of Languages came to Hebburn Comprehensive on Monday 27 September. The day is a national initiative, designed to raise the profile of language learning and promote the rich cultural and linguistic diversity of Europe as well as encouraging a life-long love of learning languages. Pupils took part in a 'Find a teacher who....' activity where they discovered the wide range of languages spoken and there was a whole host of lessons delivered with a focus on languages and European cultures. All registers were taken in a foreign language and the menus for the day in the dining hall were displayed in French, Spanish and German. Plasma screens across the school showed a range of celebrities and sports people giving interviews in French, Spanish, German and other languages.

## WINTER HOLIDAY CLUB

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**WINTER HOLIDAY CLUB**

SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER 2021 TO SUNDAY 2 JANUARY 2022

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

SPORTS AND GAMES

FUN ACTIVITIES

NUTRITIOUS MEALS

ARTS AND CRAFTS

For more information and to find out if you are eligible

[www.southtyneside.gov.uk/holidayclub](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/holidayclub)

South Tyneside Council | Department for Education | Spread the word! | THIS IS SOUTH TYNESIDE

Please click on the link on our Facebook page to find out more about the Winter Holiday Club.

## SPORTS NEWS

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The Year 7 girls' football team played in a five a side football tournament, winning the overall competition. The team remained undefeated and did not concede any goals. They have now qualified for the next round, which is the Tyne & Wear finals in March. Well done to all involved!

Well done to the Year 7 Boys' football team who have qualified for the South Tyneside Schools Central Venue League play-off. The competition will resume next Spring, where the team will compete for the league championship.

The Year 8 Football team have made a strong start to their season winning all four of their matches, scoring 28 goals in the process.

Hebburn Comprehensive fielded a very strong team for the South Tyneside Cross Country. There were some outstanding individual performances, including Jenny, who came third place in the Year 7 girls'

event. The Year 7 girls won the overall team event. The Year 8/9 boys came third and the Year 10 boys came second. Huge congratulations to everyone involved.

The Year 10 Football team, who are unbeaten this season, have won the South Tyneside School football league and are in the Cup final which will take place during the Spring Term. They are also in the quarter finals of both County Cup competitions. A fantastic achievement!

Mrs Burroughs has run a very successful basketball club this term. The attendance across both key stages has been excellent.

### SCHOOL PRODUCTION OF OLIVER TWIST

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We are delighted to announce that we will be having a school show this year. Casting has been done and rehearsals are well under way. Further details will be sent out in the Spring Term.



Merry  
Christmas

May I take this opportunity of thanking all parents and carers for your support over this past term, and of wishing all families a pleasant and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely,

David Thompson

**Head Teacher**