



Hebburn Comprehensive School

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Head Teacher: Mr D R Thompson

DRT/KM

8 April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of an exceptionally busy term, I would like to share with you some whole-school events from the Spring Term, as well as providing you with important information for the Summer Term.

LATEST COVID GUIDANCE

As I'm sure parents and carers will be aware, COVID guidance from the government has been updated. Below is a list of the key points:

- The universal offer for free testing has ended.
- Regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any education or childcare setting; therefore, pupils will no longer be bringing test kits home.
- Children who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can return to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.
- Pupils with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for three days which is when they are most infectious.

General hygiene

The spread of most infectious illnesses is reduced through good hand hygiene. Pupils should wash their hands with warm water and soap, particularly after using the toilet.

Preventing the spread of Norovirus:

- Ensuring good hand hygiene, especially after going to the toilet. Alcohol-based hand gels are not effective against Norovirus. Liquid soap and water should be used to wash hands.
- Pupils with Norovirus symptoms should not attend school until they are 48 hours symptom free. Where possible, children with Norovirus should also avoid contact with vulnerable adults such as elderly relatives (e.g., not visiting a relative in hospital or a care home).

Like all schools (and many other workplaces), staff absences continue to be higher than normal, due to COVID and other illnesses. To date, we have managed to stay open, so pupils have been able to return to something close to their normal routines.

An increase in absences has posed some logistical challenges and pupils may not always have their normal teacher for lessons. Unfortunately, this is likely to continue for a little while yet, with COVID still present and an



learn | achieve | aspire | succeed

increase in other illnesses, such as Norovirus. We will, of course, do everything we can to ensure that pupils receive a high standard of education.

STAFF NEWS

- Miss Simpson, Intervention Manager for Year 11, who has worked at the school since 2009, is sadly leaving us at the end of term to take up a new post at Jarrow School. We would like to thank Miss Simpson for the outstanding contribution she has made to the school in her time with us. We are all going to miss her. We wish her the very best of luck in her new role.
- Miss Scott joined the school after half term in the role of Pupil Support Officer.
- Mrs Fullerton joined our lunchtime supervisory team at the start of term.

KEY DATES FOR THE SUMMER TERM

- Pupils return after Easter on Monday 25 April.
- Monday 2 May is a Bank Holiday (school closed).
- Pupils finish at the normal time on Friday 27 May for half term, returning on Monday 6 June.
- School will be closed for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Day on Friday 1 July.
- There is a staff training day on Friday 8 July, meaning that the school is closed to pupils.
- School finishes on Friday 27 July. I will write to parents with further information nearer the time.
- We will communicate arrangements for the collection of GCSE results in the next half term.

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

The options process for pupils in Year 9 has started. Mr Cleugh will be updating pupils and parents at the start of the new term, outlining further information about the process and when final options choices should be made. Information, including the timeline, can be found in the options booklet that pupils received on Wednesday 23 March.

Options Timeline

Wednesday 23 March

Options booklet distributed to parents and pupils.
Options Virtual Presentation for parents/carers live on website
Email to parents/carers explaining the process

W/B Monday 28 March

Year 9 Options presentations to take place during form time. Available to parents/carers/pupils on the school website

W/B Monday 11 April

Letter to parents/carers regarding date and time of pupil interviews
Form distributed to pupils indicating initial preferences (NOT a final choice)

W/B Monday 25 April

Start of pupil interviews during the school day. Parental contact via phone (if requested)

Monday 9 May

Choices made by pupils

Monday 23 May

Letters/emails about final choices

Friday 10 June

Adjustments made/decisions finalised, and letters sent to parents/carers indicating final options choices

YEAR 11 REVISION TIMETABLE OVER EASTER

Please note that school will be open every day from 9.30am – 2.30pm, with the exception of Friday 15 April and Monday 18 April. Pupils will have access to Room 103, via the pupil entrance next to the ICT rooms.

Monday 11 April	Sports Studies 10.00am-1.00pm (JBr) Higher Triple Chemistry 12.30pm-2.30pm (DPu) Higher Biology 11.00am-12.30pm (JH) Foundation Biology 12.30pm-2.00pm (JH)	Monday 18 April	SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday 12 April	Sports Studies 10.00am-1.00pm (JBr) Maths 10.00am-12.00pm (DC) English 9.00am-10.30am (SB)	Tuesday 19 April	Higher Triple Biology 12.30pm-2.30pm (RF) English 10.00am-12.00pm (RS) Maths Support 9.30am – 2.30pm (ABJ)
Wednesday 13 April	Textiles 9.30am-2.30pm (LF) Art 10.00am-2.00pm (SS) Higher French 9.00am-11.00am (JHo) Chemistry H & F 10.00am-12.00pm (ASP)	Wednesday 20 April	Textiles 10.00am-2.00pm (MC) Art 10.00am-2.00pm (SS) Foundation French 9.00am-11.00am (JH) Maths Support 9.30am – 2.30pm (ABJ)
Thursday 14 April	Maths 10.00-12.00pm (LC)	Thursday 21 April	Maths 10.00am-12.00pm (NC) Maths Support 9.30am – 2.30pm (ABJ)
Friday 15 April	SCHOOL CLOSED	Friday 22 April	Maths Support 9.30am – 2.30pm (ABJ)

YEAR 11 EXAM TIMETABLE

The Year 11 examination timetable can be found by clicking on the link below:

<https://bit.ly/3uYOTFG>

Useful advice for parents and carers on how you can support your child through their GCSE exams can be found below:

[Supporting Your Child - Parent/Carer \(hebburn.net\)](https://www.hebburn.net/supporting-your-child-parent-carer)

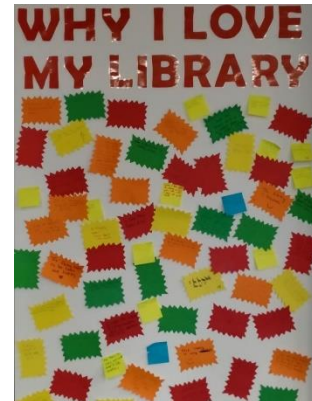
As parents and carers are already aware, summer examinations will go ahead this year. The exam timetable is spread out over six weeks, which is longer than normal, but does mean that there is a slightly longer break between papers.

It is extremely important that students attend all examinations, unless there are exceptional circumstances. You will receive a call from the school if your child is absent for an exam.

We will be doing everything we can to support students through their exams this year, appreciating how stressful this time of year is, particularly given the ongoing disruption that schools are facing.

OFFICIAL SCHOOL LIBRARY OPENING

Due to the disruption caused by COVID-19, we were unable to celebrate the launch of our new school library. On Tuesday 15 March we were joined by award-winning author Dan Smith, who, in addition to giving talks to our Year 7 pupils about reading for pleasure, officially opened our new library with a ribbon cutting ceremony. We were joined by the local press, school governors and a group of pupils and staff.



SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

A team from 'Show Racism the Red Card' was in school during the week of 28 March, working with all year groups. Pupils participated in a range of tasks, activities and discussions about diversity, inclusion and equality.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Year 10 County Cup Final

Hebburn Comprehensive 4 - St Bede's 1

It is the first time the school have won this cup since 1978. We weren't at our best in the first half but scored some great goals and finished strongly. Two goals each for Chrissy Rigg and Aaron Carr. Joint man of the match went to Lucas Gallagher and Harry Urwin.

Unfortunately, five days later they lost 5-0 to the same opposition in the final of the Londonderry County Cup. Their overall school record is 32 wins from 35 matches with one draw and only two losses.

Year 7 Girls' Football Final

The Year 7 girls' team qualified unbeaten and without conceding a goal to represent South Tyneside in the Tyne & Wear Year 7 football finals at The Beacon of Light. The girls played extremely well and showed a great team spirit throughout the tournament. Well done to Caitlyn, Lyla, Kelsie, Jenny, Jaysie, Lexie and Georgina.





Massive congratulations go to Year 10 pupil, Christopher Rigg who has been selected to represent England in the England Men's Under 15 squad in the Delle Nazioni football tournament in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy in April / May 2022.

Huge congratulations also go to Tyler Lopes, Year 11 who had his photographs of a recent Hebburn Town FC match printed in a national newspaper!



BOOK FOR THE NHS

Huge congratulations to Erin and Christina, both in Year 8, who have had their work published in a book that will be raising funds for the NHS. Erin's work is featured on the front cover – a fantastic achievement!



ANNE FRANK TRUST YOUTH AMBASSADORS

Congratulations to Annabelle, Nery and Olivia who have been successful in their applications to become Youth Ambassadors with the Anne Frank Trust. They will work with the Trust to come up with creative

solutions to challenge issues of prejudice and discrimination and will have the opportunity to attend nationwide events and use their voice to challenge prejudice in our society. We are so very proud of them!



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2022

We are very proud of the Year 9 pupils who worked with the Anne Frank Trust UK to create an exhibition about the life of Anne Frank, in school. It gave pupils the opportunity to learn about the awful consequences of persecution and challenged us all to think about how issues of prejudice and discrimination are still relevant today.



WORLD BOOK DAY

We had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day earlier this term.

Aside from WBD activities in lessons, and the Harry Potter tie finding mission, a number of events took place in the library throughout the day and after-school, including:

- Design your own bookmark competition
- Decorate WBD Bunting
- Book Bingo bookmarks to take away (with prizes for pupils who completed their bookmarks!)
- Audiobook and reading aloud sessions
- Library character scavenger hunt (with Wonka bars up for grabs!)
- 350 World Book Day books to give out to pupils in exchange for a post-it note for our wall display on why they love the library / reading
- An after-school book quiz!



YEAR 8 COUNCIL RUBBISH RELAY

Well done to our Year 8 Council (and friends) for organising the Rubbish Relay race. We are very proud of your efforts to clean up the school environment!



YEAR 10 FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION DAY

Some great work from Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition class. Pupils were asked to work in pairs to create a two-course meal, creating a time plan, researching their own recipe and what equipment they would need to create their dish. The Pupils were given half an hour on the day before to prepare their 'mise en place', then had one hour to make their dishes and present them, as well as tidy the food room and complete their washing up.

As you can see from the results the students made a great effort, and they have been given an idea of what their cooking exam will entail. Well done everyone!



THE KEY PANELS

Congratulations to the following Key groups who went to panel last Friday and were all successful in their endeavours. Well done to all involved. We are extremely proud of you!

'HHL'

Cole, Jacob, William, Will, Jack and Joseph in Year 8 were granted £250 for a movie afternoon for Year 8 pupils, raising money for Daft as a Brush charity.



'The Councillors'

Darcy, Zak, Michael, Reece and Josh in Year 10 were granted £250 to organise a raffle raising money for charity.



'NEK's Group'

Evie, Katy and Neve in Year 8 were successful at panel, being awarded £250 to create a vegetable garden in school. Work will begin soon!



'Bring Us Together' Group

Nicole, Isla, Bethany and Grace in Year 8 were granted £250 to run a raffle to raise money for the Mental Health Foundation. They will be making up self-care hampers to raffle off, with all proceeds going to the charity.



THE KEY WELL DONE VISIT

Una from The Key came into school to present certificates and goodie bags to students who have completed their Stage 1 Key projects. Well done to the following groups Snovit; The Boss Babies with Car Keys; Crumble Crew; Shrek Republicans; The Girls in Top Hats and the Semi Colons.



FUNDRAISING FOR UKRAINE

A series of events were organised to raise funds for those affected by the war in Ukraine. The total raised for was **£937.65**, this has been donated to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal by the DEC. £200 will also be donated to Red Nose Day appeal from our non-uniform day.

£200.30 from Mr Cousins' scone sale
£220 from a cake sale
£77.35 from PE sponsored walk

£170 from a sweet raffle
£70 from a staff cake & coffee event
£200 from non-uniform day

Our sincere thanks again to all parents, carers, pupils and staff who supported our collection for Ukraine. We filled a van with your kind donations. Thank you!



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 Easter break. We look forward to seeing you in the new term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr D R Thompson
Head Teacher