

5 June 2026

"Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair."

Nelson Mandela

Dear Parent / Carer,

Eventually we got some lovely weather, and I hope you had the chance to enjoy it over half-term. Students have come back refreshed and those sitting exams have really given their all.

As we enter the final push towards the Summer, I would also like to thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school regularly. Attendance is a critical factor in helping students to achieve their best. Every day counts and maintaining good attendance right up to the end of term helps ensure pupils are fully prepared for the next stage of their learning. Your ongoing commitment to supporting your child's education is so important in this regard.

I would also appreciate it if you could take two minutes to answer the questions in our annual survey. It is helpful to recognise the work going on in the school and identify areas for improvement. One thing that has had a big response from parents is if there is a particular member of staff that you would like to thank or say something positive about – it really does make their day!

[Parent/Carer Survey 2026](#)

As today's quote states - sport can be used to really motivate young people. I was delighted to see how well our girls engaged with the recent rugby initiative in school. Four girls were given prizes for their brilliant attitude and were awarded a rugby ball or tickets for the Newcastle Red Bulls game where they made a remarkable comeback against Sale Sharks to win 45-42



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The Newcastle United Foundation is another example of a sporting endeavour that makes a big difference to our students. I received a lovely message from an ex-student last week to say how much he appreciated his involvement with the Foundation.

"I just wanted to say thank you for all the support I received while I was part of the NUFC Foundation. Looking back now, I honestly think the confidence boost and encouragement I got from the team played a massive part in where I am now. Without that support, I genuinely don't think I would've had the confidence to get involved in a lot of the things I do today.

Since leaving school I've been involved with heritage railways, including working as a trainee fireman and Secondman on steam and diesel locomotives, helping with events and productions, and studying at Newcastle College.

I still look back on my time with the Foundation positively, and I just wanted to say thank you because I don't think I properly appreciated at the time how much of a difference it made.

Hope everybody is doing well and thank you again for everything."

Hearing such positive feedback is always pleasing. We recently asked our student about what makes their best teachers for them so we could share ideas amongst staff – we had more than 200 responses and this is a flavour of what they said...

"The teachers visualise stuff and make it stick in my head for example Mr Moat told me once that a waterfall retreats overtime like his hairline and I still remember that. Also actually caring about a student's well-being helps that they don't just want you to do well academically also mentally"

"Miss Torbitt always checks if we are okay and checks we understand often. She also shows us every different way to solve maths problems and lets us pick which one works best for us as individuals. She also ensures her classroom is a comfortable environment, where no judgment is allowed and there is no such thing as a silly question"

"Mrs Bell in English. She just helps everyone, sometimes in a lesson a teacher won't be able to get round and help EVERYONE, but Mrs Bell brings all the questions to the front just in case other students have the same issue. I've found this very helpful"

Finally, a small plea! As our Year 11 students finish their exams, we'd greatly appreciate any uniform donations. If you have any items in good condition—particularly Year 11 ties—we'd love to repurpose them for future students. Donations can be dropped off at the school's front reception before or after school or sent in with your child.

If you'd like to request pre-loved uniform items, please complete this [here](#).

Thank you once again for all your support.

Best wishes,



Mr. P. Douthwaite

Headteacher

Student support and safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Louise Dunn

Deputy Safeguarding Leader: Mr Alex Lunn

SENDCo: Mrs Rebecca Bennett

Please remember that we are here to support you and your child at any time.

You can contact us via the main office (phone) or by email

For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email