# YEAR 7 NEWSLETTER 1



### YEAR TEAM MESSAGE

We are delighted to share what has been a truly excellent start to Year 7. Our new cohort have settled in incredibly well and are already showing themselves to be a credit to the school community. From day one, our students have embraced our school values of being positive contributors to our community, ambitious learners and respectful towards their peers and staff. This is reflected in the overwhelmingly positive attitude they've brought into lessons and around school.

It's been wonderful to see so many students receiving positive points for excellent effort, kindness, teamwork, and outstanding behaviour. Keep it up! We've also been really impressed by how smartly the year group have been wearing their uniform – setting the tone for a successful and professional year ahead. We place a strong focus on punctuality and attendance and we ask for your continued support in ensuring your child arrives on time each day and maintains attendance above 90%. Every day of learning counts!

We have high aspirations for every student in Year 7. This year is about building strong foundations – academically, socially, and personally. We're encouraging all students to dream big, work hard, and make the most of every opportunity. Thank you for your continued support. We're excited for all that's to come!

Mr Merrett, Mr A'Court and the Tutor Team

# **KEY DATES**

- Friday 14th November: Staff Training Day
- Monday 1st Dec: Progress Report 1 (Settling In Check)
- Monday 1st Thursday 11th Dec: Synoptic Assessments 1
- Monday 2nd February: Progress Report 2
- Friday 6th March: Dimensions Day
- Thursday 19th March Parents Evening
- Monday 1st Friday 12th June: Synoptic Assessments 2
- Friday 26th June: Staff Training Day
- Monday 13th July: Progress Report 3







### WHAT WILL YEAR 7 STUDY THIS TERM?

English: Students are currently studying Gothic Horror. They are reading a variety of Gothic extracts including 'The Red Room' by H G Wells and 'The Tell-Tale Heart' by Edgar Allan Poe. They have also started reading the novel 'Mister Creecher' by Chris Priestley.

Maths: Students are focusing on core maths skills, including place value, the four operations, and an introduction to algebra.

Science: Students are transitioning into KS3 by studying the fundamental principles of Science introduced in KS2. They are starting to develop their disciplinary literacy as a scientist, beginning with Cells, Particles and Energy.

Art: Students will begin the year with a project based on 'Insects'. Through this skills based unit, students will continue to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of using a variety of mediums in Art.

Computing: Students are learning how to navigate and use the school network responsibly, developing their presentation software skills, and exploring key e-safety topics including the impact of cyberbullying, respecting others and online safety.

Design Technology: Our theme this year is 'Time for Tea' students will reflect on the classic book, 'Alice in Wonderland' and draw inspiration from the stories and characters. They will develop their understanding of Textiles through practical tasks including embroidery, mark making and surface decoration.

Drama: Students will be exploring the genre of Commedia Dell'arte, developing students knowledge of physical skills. Students will also have the opportunity to explore mask work.

Geography: Students are currently exploring the three types of Geography, describing and locating places around the World. Students will also explore map skills, interpreting ordnance survey maps and how maps can be important politically.

Health Education: Students are exploring what makes a person healthy – including mental and physical health, healthy and unhealthy diets. They will also identify different influences on decisions regarding diet and exercise.

History: Students are studying the theme of control, beginning with the Norman invasion of England, including the Battle of Hastings, the development of the feudal system, and the role of castles in securing Norman rule.







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# WHAT WILL YEAR 7 STUDY THIS TERM?

iLearn: Students are finding out about how our brains work and how they can use this knowledge to help them become more successful learners. After half term, students will make a time capsule about themselves.

Music: We are exploring 4 elements of music: Dynamics, Instruments, Rhythm and Tempo (D.I.R.T) using singing and body percussion.

Physical Education: During the first term, students will be taking part in Team Sports with a focus on Rugby, Netball, Football and Basketball as well as Orienteering and Leadership Activities, Fitness and Dance.

Religious Education: This term we are looking at what are religion, philosophy and ethics, considering whether football is a religion, what are our personal philosophies for life and exploring ethical questions if you could go back in time.

Spanish: We are learning how to introduce ourself and greet others in Spanish. We will learn how to describe family members and talk about pets. We will also be learning the sounds of Spanish so we can pronounce Spanish words correctly. At the end of the term we will be learning about how Christmas is celebrated in Spain.



### YEAR 7 SYNOPTIC ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

In the fortnight beginning Monday 1st December, Year 7 students will be taking synoptic assessments in English, Maths, and Science. These assessments give us a helpful overview of their learning so far and allow us to understand each child's strengths and areas for development. This helps us to provide the right support and stretch to ensure all students make strong and expected progress as they move through Key Stage 3

To support students in preparing for these assessments, English, Maths, and Science teachers will post on ClassCharts the dates of both the revision lessons and the assessments. Revision materials will be shared with students via ClassCharts and teachers will also complete a revision lesson with students prior to the assessments so that students have the opportunity to ask questions and become familiar with the structure of their assessments.

The results of these assessments will be shared with you as part of your child's next progress report. The report will include each assessment score, a subject-specific target as well as an effort score for all subject areas.







# **SOFW POSTCARDS**

We ran a Year 7 competition to design a scientific postcard. There was a lot of competition, but the three winners were Vianh, Jessica and Skye. Their creative designs will be used for all of the postcards that are sent home for students that win "Scientist of the Week" throughout the year.

Thank you and well done to all entrants!

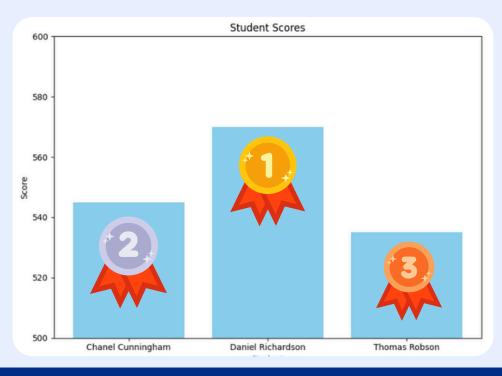
### **EXCELLENT PARTICIPATION**

Huge congratulations to Shane who won a pair of tickets and mascot experience to the Newcastle United v Barcelona fixture.

Shane was selected for his school attendance and excellent participation in extra-curricular activities. All our lunchtime activities and afterschool clubs have now begun, students should speak to their tutor for more information.







# POINTS UPDATE

A big well done to Year 7 who have collectively achieved over 72,000 positive points.

Congratulations to Daniel (1<sup>st</sup>), Chanel (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Thomas (3<sup>rd</sup>) who are the highest Y7 scorers so far.





### YEAR GROUP COUNCIL

The Year Group Council is off to an amazing start, with a wide variety of projects being debated to improve the school and help the local area. The Council have had two meetings so far and have confirmed their plans.

In the Autumn, they plan to do a litter pick in the local park and lakeside area.

In the Winter they are planning to send Christmas messages to the elderly in local care homes and try to arrange a visit.

In the spring/summer when the weather is nicer, they plan to improve the school by planting flowers in some of the areas that require a bit of colour.



### **MEMBERS**

Vianh. N - 7A Riley. R - 7A Jake. P - 7B Julia. W - 7B **Zak. B - 7C** Bobby. J - 7C Joey. D - 7D Owen. WS - 7D Madison. M - 7E James. S - 7E Summer. M - 7F Thomas. B - 7F Darcey. O - 7G Emily. M - 7G Bentley. E - 7H Harley. D - 7H Poppy. R - 7J William. H - 7J



# **OUR VALUES**

Congratulations to Noah who won two tickets to the Newcastle v Arsenal game.

Noah designed a brilliant drawing of Eddie Howe, Nick Pope and Dan Burn with an accompanying paragraph explaining how this linked to our values of Ambition, **Respect and Community.** 







#### PARENT SURVEY FORM

Our partnership with parents and carers is very important to us and we value your input into continuing school improvement. Please complete the 2025/26 Parent Survey using the QR code if you werent able to at the Tutor Evening.

### SCHOOL LIBRARY

The School library opening hours are:

Monday: 8.00am - 4.30pm Tuesday: 8.00am - 4.30pm Wednesday: 8.00am - 4.30pm Thursday: 8.00am - 4.30pm

Friday: 8.00am - 4pm

Students can attend Book Club and/or Manga Club which run weekly, use the facility for independent study or home learning. Also, look out for themed events throughout the year!





### PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Half Term 1 Timetable:

**Monday: Boys' Football** 

**Monday: Netball** 

Wednesday: Basketball Thursday: Girls' Football

All clubs run from 3:00 - 4:00pm. For more

information speak to Mr O'Dea.

### **CAREERS SPEED DATING - 22.10.25**

As part of our Careers curriculum, Year 7 students will take part in a Careers Speed Dating event organised by North Tyneside Learning Trust on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

Students interact with a range of employers who will share information about their setting, roles and responsibilities. Students will meet with over 15 organisations including the NHS, North Tyneside Council and the British Army. It's a fantastic event which introduces students to the world of work in a fun and informative way.







