



Nether Stowe School

Be Respectful. Be Ambitious. Be Resilient.

19th March 2024

End of Term letter

Dear parent or carer,

Whilst this term has been a relatively short one, it has been exceptionally busy and full of brilliant achievements. Included in the letter below, I have provided some highlights as well as some important information and updates. As a reminder, school closes at the normal time of **3pm** on **Friday 22nd March** and reopens to all pupils on **Tuesday 9th April** at the normal time. **Please note: Monday 8th April is a training day and school is closed to pupils.**

Glastowe

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and support *Glastowe* at the end of this term. It was a fantastically well-attended, sell-out, evening and it was brilliant to see all of the superb talent and hard work on show. I was immensely proud of our gifted pupils. A special thanks goes to Mr Wright for leading, managing and overseeing our inaugural event which we hope will grow even further in the coming years as well. Additional thanks also goes to the many staff and students who worked incredibly hard behind the scenes to make the evening a massive success. Well done to all the pupils who took part and represented their College with pride and congratulations to Chase College who took the overall prize on the night.

College Competitions

Similarly, the College competitions have been an enormous success this year and we have been thrilled with the level of participation and engagement from students and staff. The aim is to have an event, each week, that everyone can take part in and where, most importantly, participation itself is recognised and rewarded with College Points. You can catch-up on all of the details and winners through our social media posts and we will be sharing details of our year-ending event for the winning College early next term, as well as recognising individual successes with students in celebration assemblies this week when College and school colours will be awarded to students.

Extra-Curricular Experiences

We have run a huge number of trips and extra-curricular events this academic year and we hope the ski trip to Italy have a fantastic time over Easter. Amongst a range of events, students have been to the theatre to see the *Woman in Black* and Year 11 and Year 10 have enjoyed a production of *A Christmas Carol* in school. Maths students have also enjoyed visits to Manchester City FC and Silverstone, whilst pupils have also delved into the court system in Wolverhampton Crown Court and explored the history of the penal system in Shrewsbury. We are incredibly proud that our Duke of Edinburgh offer has continued to grow in popularity and Sixth Form students enjoyed a superb residential break in London, including a visit and tour of the Houses of Parliament.

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We have also had a focus on building aspiration and ambition. Year 11 pupils have been involved in the Higher Horizons university visit and pupils have had three careers-focused events so far, with more to come, including the Positively You event this week.

ATLP Awards

We're looking forward to the ATLP student awards which take place in June. Nether Stowe students have previously compered the award ceremony and we are proud that a Nether Stowe student has always been represented for each of the awards in previous years. Pupils are primarily nominated by staff for either, their work as a charity fundraiser; involvement in the wider community; contribution to school life; creativity; extra-curricular; or special endeavour. Nominations will be finalised after Easter, and I look forward to sharing the details of the successful nominees next term.

Student Leadership

We are incredibly proud of how passionate our students are in playing an active role in life at Nether Stowe School and the ideas they have on all aspects of school life. We are excited to be launching, after Easter, a range of student leadership roles which will provide students with the opportunity to work alongside staff and other students interested in similar causes. The roles will include:

- United Leaders (please see below for more information)
- Literacy Leaders
- Wellbeing Leaders
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) leaders
- Careers Leaders
- Eco Leaders
- Learning Leaders

There will be an assembly after the Easter break to introduce the roles to students. Those students interested will then be invited to complete an application form, which will then be followed by a selection interview.

We look forward to sharing our new leadership team with you in the coming weeks.

Introducing Nether Stowe 'United'

Students currently have a specific SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) development session each week, which is delivered by their form tutor. SMSC supports students to develop a range of personal and social skills that will enable them to be responsible and well-rounded members of society.

Student voice has informed us that our young people would like to have more opportunities to celebrate all forms of diversity as well as having a positive and safe environment to speak about current issues that impact

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them as citizens in the world today. We are therefore proud to announce the launch of our 'United' curriculum in April.

United will build on the current SMSC provision and is about creating a community of passionate and empowered young people, which is built on a foundation of equality and respect. We will cover many topics in tutor time, giving the students the opportunities to listen to and acknowledge the challenges of others; challenge stereotypes; understand the impact their words and actions have on others; and equip students to feel confident in being an active and positive member of society.

In addition, there will be whole school events and celebrations to acknowledge and celebrate diversity throughout the year.

We look forward to sharing regular updates of the topics and discussions we will have.

Sixth Form recruitment.

The students in Year 11 who have shown an interest in staying in our Sixth Form in September have been invited to an event in our Sixth Form study centre. This is an exclusive, invite only, event during period 5 on Friday 22nd March. Not only will this be a Q&A session for Year 11 to ask our current Year 12 and Year 13 students any questions they may have about Sixth Form, it will also be an end of term celebration.

On Thursday 21st March, at both break and lunch, Year 13 students will be hosting a bake sale for the lower years. Please bring along some spare change for yummy treats.

Year 11 Positively You and Year 11 revision sessions

The final Year 11 'Positively You' session of the year will be delivered on the 21st March supporting Year 11 pupils with preparation for their final GCSE exams. All the sessions have been received very well by the students and proved to be highly motivating and engaging.

The sessions have been designed to help students continue to develop revision skills and, most importantly, effectively manage exam stress. The previous online parent sessions have also been well attended with some great feedback on supporting Year 11 through this important exam period.

Mr Jones will be providing an update on the revision sessions over Easter in a separate letter this week.

Learning Futures

The use of iPads is continuing to develop within lessons. Many students are now busy completing Socrative knowledge recall quizzes on a regular basis to help them remember key knowledge learnt within lessons. The iPads are also being used creatively in lessons to further enhance the learning experience for students. In some science lessons, experiments are being recorded to enhance student understanding and in history lessons storyboards are being created using a range of primary sources to help bring key events to life.

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We have recently hosted in school a number of visitors, including a team from Apple who have met and discussed with digital student leaders to see how iPads are being innovatively used within the classroom to help make teaching, learning and assessment even more engaging and we are very proud to be at the forefront of this work across ATLP.

Uniform

A huge thanks to the overwhelming majority of students who represent the school fantastically and wear their uniform with pride. Please take some time to fully review the policy expectations on the website and make sure your child is completely ready for the start of the new term.

A specific reminder that leggings are not part of the school uniform and that false nails are not permitted for health and safety reasons. Thank you for your support.

Reading and Literacy

Reading is an integral part of our lives, not only for learning and accessing the world around us but research shows that reading has been proven to improve well-being. In today's world, helping our children with this is so important. In school we help students develop a love of reading in tutor time, ROL and in lessons, however your support with this at home, will multiply the benefits to your child. If you would like to read more on how you can help see this section of our website <https://netherstowe.staffs.sch.uk/reading-and-literacy-at-nether-stowe/>

We are also a LoveReading4Kids school. On this website you can get help choosing reading age-appropriate books and if you decide to purchase you can nominate our school and we will get a donation from the company to help us provide even more inspiring books for our developing readers. Further links can be found on our website here <https://netherstowe.staffs.sch.uk/suggested-reading-lists/>

Knowledge Retrieval Practice (KRP) and Take it Further (TIF)

Students have been working extremely hard on KRP and TIF tasks. Some excellent work has been produced showing their hard work and determination. A video has been uploaded to the website, and shared with students, to outline how best to access the KRP tasks set by teachers ([click here for the link](#)). This will hopefully help you to support your child at home with their learning. Please check the website under the student's tab for home learning guidance. Your support with completion of KRPs is always encouraged and appreciated.

Attendance

Every day in school matter and every day missed impacts on learning and progress.

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Whilst declining rates of attendance at school are a national issue, Nether Stowe School aims for its attendance to be well above the national average. When attendance or punctuality fall short of expected standards, steps will be taken to address this. Absence is classed as persistent where it falls below 90% across the academic year. Absence at this level is very likely to seriously hinder educational progress and we expect and need full parental co-operation and support to urgently address low attendance.

Intervention steps may include implementation of an attendance action plan, referral to other agencies and/or seeking to put in place a parenting contract.

Thank you for your continuing support and we hope you enjoy the Easter break.

Yours faithfully,

Mr G Langston-Jones
Headteacher

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