



Nether Stowe School

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July 2019 July 19

Dear parent or carer,

After a busy and full school year, I would like to take the opportunity, before the summer break, to share some important information with you. We have achieved a huge amount this year and I have been impressed, and proud, of the hard work of staff and students alike to raise and uphold our high expectations and standards. We are determined to make Nether Stowe an excellent school with the highest possible standards. Therefore, the partnership we forge with you, our parents and carers, is essential. Accordingly, I urge you to read the information below carefully in advance of the new school year.

Arrangements for the end of term

School ends for pupils on **Friday 19th July**. In line with other local schools, pupils will be dismissed from 12:15 onwards.

Arrangements for the start of term in September

Monday 2nd September and **Tuesday 3rd September** are designated as staff training days. Pupils will return to school from **Wednesday 4th September** in line with the schedule below. On their first day, pupils will report direct to the school hall, using the entrance opposite the Maths block, at the designated time.

Date	Year Group in September	Time for Pupils to Arrive
Wednesday 4 th September	7	08:45
Thursday 5 th September	10	08:45
Thursday 5 th September	11	10:45
Friday 6 th September	8	08:45
Friday 6 th September	9	10:45

On the first day, pupils will take part in a number of training sessions designed to prepare them effectively for the term and year ahead as well as a number of planned College activities. It is incredibly important that pupils attend promptly and only at the allocated time.

As a reminder, the school day, from September, will now finish at 3:00pm.

Email: office@netherstowe.com Website: www.netherstowe.com Twitter: @netherstowe



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GCSE and A Level Results Days

We wish all of our students the very best of luck for the forthcoming summer results and look forward to Year 11 pupils joining us in the Sixth Form.

A Level results day: Thursday 15th August, 09:00 – 10:00 in the school hall.

GCSE results day: Thursday 22nd August, 09:30 – 10:30 in the school hall

Year 10 results: Thursday 22nd August, 10:30 – 11:00 in the school hall

Sixth Form Enrolment

Further information and guidance will be available on GCSE results day and Miss Riley will be available to answer any queries. Careers advice will also be available throughout the morning.

Homework and Knowledge Organisers

From September, we will be launching knowledge organisers. Knowledge organisers will replace the school planner and contain all of the key information required. Pupils will be provided with their personalised folders at the start of the academic year and subject teachers will hand out the knowledge organisers required for the first half-term in the initial lessons.

A knowledge organiser is a one-sheet summary containing all of the information for a specific topic. The most important change will be in relation to homework. Homework will always be set using the knowledge organiser and will require the pupil to learn a specific section. This will then be tested at the start of a subsequent lesson, reinforcing and building the key skills of retention and recall, essential for exam success. Pupils in KS4 and KS5 may also be set longer pieces of homework to support exam practice.

Pupils will have special training sessions on the use of knowledge organisers at the start of the new term and we will also be holding parental information sessions early in the new term, more information will follow in relation to specific dates and times.

Rewards and Behaviour Policy

One of our key priorities this year has been to raise the standards and expectations around behaviour for learning. Good behaviour for learning is the bedrock and foundation of success in school and I have been very pleased with the great progress we have made. The vast majority of our students uphold our high standards every day and pupil feedback affirms that behaviour has significantly improved. We will not tolerate any behaviour that persistently interrupts or disrupts teaching or learning and low-level disruption in lesson is now rare. However, we are always conscious of how we can make further improvements.

As a result, we have spent a great deal of time reviewing and evaluating the current policy with pupils, staff and the Local Governing Body and, accordingly, we have agreed changes to the current policy for the start of the 2019-2020 academic year.

A flowchart of the new system is provided at the end of this letter. There are two key aims:

1. **To make rewards more meaningful and purposeful.** We have launched the rewards shop this year and will be expanding the offer to further develop it next year. From September, enrichment opportunities will also be directly linked to the credit / debit balance of each student. To assist with this, as well as the regular credits for attendance and uniform, we will also be providing pupils with default credits for each lesson to recognise those students who regularly meet our expectations every day and in every lesson. We will also greatly simplify the credits to make it easier and quicker for staff to positively recognise the work and effort of students who exceed our expectations. This will mean more credits and more opportunities for all students.
2. **To make removal from a lesson much more serious.** If behaviour interrupts teaching or the learning of others, it must be addressed quickly and not allowed to continue. In lessons, pupils will be provided with two clear warnings. If the disruptive behaviour continues, or if it is serious disruption, the pupil will be removed from the lesson and placed in our 'Ready to Learn' room for five periods, including break and lunchtime. We expect exam conditions to be upheld in the room and pupils will be provided with work matching the content of their normal lessons. A 60 min detention will also be completed at the end of the same day, unless the pupil is removed from period 5, in which case it will take place at the end of the following day. This will prevent the accumulation of detentions experienced by some students.

If pupils do not meet the exam conditions expectations of the 'Ready to Learn' room, they will be removed and placed in the more serious sanction of Internal Exclusion. Supervised by a senior member of staff, the pupil will be expected to complete the designated number of periods and receive support before reintegration back into lessons.

Sanctions outside of lesson time, for example for lateness to lesson, dropping litter or poor behaviour on the corridor incur a 'Red Card', served by completing a 20min lunchtime detention. If this detention is missed or refused, it would be escalated to a period in the Ready to Learn room.

We know that most of our students abide by our expectations every day and we will be working with specific students both before the summer and at the start of the new year to provide further support where it is needed.

Attendance and Punctuality

As you will be aware from my previous letters, good, punctual, attendance at school is vital for good progress. We will have an even greater focus on promoting and maintaining good attendance from September.

The school target for all students is a **minimum of 96%**. This equates to no more than 8 days of absence from school. Research shows that students with less than 95% attendance, on average, perform less well than those with attendance above 95%. We know that the vast majority of students, and parents, take attendance very seriously and I thank you for your continuing support to ensure good attendance right from the start of the year.

Uniform

The standard of uniform at Nether Stowe is generally excellent: students wear their uniform with pride in and around school and the local community: it is an important part of the high standards we hold. Although we decided against the introduction of a standard school skirt as we did not want to pass on an extra cost; the length – and style – of skirts remains an issue. Our pastoral staff have conducted a great deal of work with individual students and parents in the summer term to help to proactively address this.

Please ensure you have reviewed the uniform guidance on the website carefully and that your child is prepared and ready for the start of term. Your support in upholding our standards is greatly appreciated.

Building and Renovation Plans

As with all significant and sizeable building projects, delays to the start of the project have been a source of frustration for us. Our hope was that the work would commence in July and over the summer. As a result of factors beyond our control, this has unfortunately not been possible.

However, our ambitious plans haven't changed, and we have been informed work will start next term. Importantly, we are currently working with the design team to ensure that any potential disruption is kept to an absolute minimum.

As a reminder, the work will involve:

- A three-storey extension to the front of school, including new Science laboratories and reception area.
- New Sixth Form facilities and extra space for post-16 student provision.
- New Sports Hall and changing facilities
- Refurbished classrooms in the main building
- New IT room (due for completion August 2019)
- New Learning Resource Centre

Clearly, when complete this work will be nothing short of transformational for the school and we are very excited about the positive impact it will have on our students and the wider community. As the project gathers pace, I will look forward to sharing more information with pupils and parents.

Finally, I hope you have a safe a restful summer and look forward, with anticipation, to September.

Yours faithfully,



Mr G Langston-Jones
Headteacher

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Behaviour Flow Chart

