



# BENFIELD SCHOOL

**PRIDE IN PERFORMANCE**

**Headteacher: Mr Richard Carr**



Dear Parent/Guardian

July 2019

Benfield School continues to improve and raise its standards for each and every student. Since taking up my role as Headteacher here last September, I have communicated with you to provide you with regular updates as to the progress which the school has made and I was pleased to introduce my Headteacher Blog as a new method of doing this over the past three terms. It is crucial that we keep you informed and maintain your support. I therefore write with this aim in mind.

Over the past academic year, we have once again continued to challenge every area of school life in our demand for improvement. This has resulted in improving attendance levels of our students and a better standard of teaching across all subject areas as a result of newly appointed staff and effective use of staff training time across the year to focus on further developing teaching and learning strategies. We have also seen significantly improved student attitudes to learning resulting in more students accessing praise and rewards opportunities in Activities Days and a steadfast reduction in the issuing of negative consequences for poor behaviour as a result of the introduction last September of our 'Behaviour for Learning' system.

Students in Year's 10 and 12 have accessed work-based learning opportunities, we now have spaces for all individual year groups and a brand new and improved school menu for students to experience at lunch-times. In addition to this, we have increased our focus upon British Values, health, diet and well-being and mental health whilst also improving the content we provide to students around sex and relationships education.

For a number of years, Newcastle Bridges School has been based on the Benfield site, using two sections of the building. I would like to inform you that Newcastle Bridges will be re-locating to another premises in the West End of the city at the end of this term which means that Benfield will take back this space for use by Benfield staff and students from next academic year. This not only provides us with new opportunities for use of learning and social space, but it also comes at a time where in September we will be welcoming a record high number of over 220 Year 7 students who will begin their secondary education with us.

Meanwhile, we eagerly await examination results from our Year 11 and Year 13 students which we are confident will continue to demonstrate a rising trend of improvement.

Please find enclosed details of school terms, holidays and teacher training days, as well as school uniform guidance.

You will recall that earlier in the school year I asked you to contribute your views as part of a consultation process with all school stakeholders into changing the timings of the school day from September 2019. I would like to thank those of you who offered valuable feedback as part of this process and I would like to inform you that the governing body supported my request to keep the current school timings the same for next academic year. There will be no changes to the school day from its current timings.

Students this year have been exceptionally good at wearing the correct uniform and we expect this to continue next year. There is no change to the current Benfield School uniform for September. You can help us by reminding your child of the school's expectations regarding appearance and conduct, particularly taking note of the fact that mobile phones must not be used inside school and that only a single pair of sleeper earrings are an appropriate piercing set for students to wear whilst on the school premises.



**Benfield Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 4NU.**

**Tel: 0191 2656091 – E-mail: [admin@benfield.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:admin@benfield.newcastle.sch.uk) - Website:**

**[www.benfield-school.co.uk](http://www.benfield-school.co.uk)**



Newcastle East mixed multi Academy Trust is an exempt charity and company limited by guarantee - registered no. 10561094  
Heaton Centre, Trewhitt Road, Heaton, Newcastle, NE6 5DY

Page 2

I would also like to request your continued support with students not attending in leggings which are not part of the Benfield uniform.

In addition to this, all students from September **must** continue to remain on the school premises at lunch-time, which promotes good punctuality and attendance and which has strongly impacted positively towards further increasing standards of teaching and learning this year. I can confirm that the cost of a school meal for paying students from September will be £2.10.

May I please request that doctor or dental appointments are made after 3:00pm wherever possible, ensuring that you provide medical evidence (letter or appointment card) for any medical related absences that must take place during the school day. I must also stress that in line with DfE guidelines that students must not be taken out of school during term time for holidays as permission cannot be given.

**FINAL DAY OF TERM – FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JULY 2019**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July is the final day of this academic year. Students must attend school in full uniform during the final week unless as part of Rewards Day they are taking part in an off-site visit. Clothing must conform to health and safety rules and be appropriate..

*All students will be dismissed from the school site at 2:00pm. On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July.*

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE START OF TERM IN SEPTEMBER 2019:**

Monday September 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2019	Teacher Training Day (School closed to all students)
Tuesday September 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2019	<b>New Year 7</b> students begin at 8:30am (School closed to all other students)
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	<b>Year 7 – Year 11</b> students begin at 8.50am <b>All student are expected to be on site by 8.45am</b>
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	<b>Sixth Form</b> students begin at 8:50am
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Breakfast Club begins operation from 7.30am

There continues to be a lot of excitement about the future for the school as we enter our fourth year as an academy as well as for our new group of Year 7 and Year 12 students who will be joining us in September. With your appreciated and on-going partnership, I look forward to sharing further successes and updates with you throughout the coming months.

As I come to the end of my first year as Headteacher at Benfield, I am also very keen to seek the views of all parents/guardians so that I can act on your feedback in order to further improve the school. ***Please find enclosed a paper copy of our 2019 Parent/Guardian survey. Can I please request that you complete the survey and return it back to school via post in the pre-paid envelope by Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019***. I intend to fully analyse the views arising from the survey and then feed back to you as to the findings and how your feedback will contribute towards our future developments of the school.

I hope you have an enjoyable summer break and we look forward to your child/children returning in September.

Yours faithfully



Mr R Carr  
Headteacher