



BENFIELD SCHOOL

PRIDE IN PERFORMANCE

Headteacher: Mr Richard Carr



Dear Parent/Carer

11th December 2019

I would like to inform you that the academy will close on **Friday 20th December 2019 at 2:00pm** for students. Any student requiring to remain on the school site until 3:00pm can be supervised until this time in the Library. Full school uniform *must* be worn by all students on the final day of this term.

The school will re-open to all students on **Monday 6th January 2020**.

As the first term of the current academic year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the many developments which have taken place since September:

- The successful re-launch of our adapted 'Positive Attitude Towards Learning' and 'Behaviour for Learning' rewards and sanctions system, following consultation with students and staff
- The continuation of our 'Attendance Rewards' scheme for students
- The introduction of a new Key Stage 3 and 4 Student Progress provision with additional staff to support students who require assistance
- Work based learning placements
- The appointment of a new post of Lead Attendance and Behaviour person
- The appointment of additional Benfield School Attendance Officer to support students and families in improving attendance
- The introduction of a Key Stage 3 Benfield ELITE Football Academy
- Increased cycle storage following student requests
- Increased student toilets, now separated for use by different student year groups
- Continuation of student access to the school counsellor
- A new Student Entrance
- The introduction of our Benfield Leadership Academy

Over the past term, we have once again continued to challenge every area of school life in our demand for improvement. This has included addressing student attendance levels in school, which I am pleased to tell you, are improved compared to this point last year. As the term has progressed, we have also seen further improved student attitudes to learning, resulting in increased numbers of students accessing praise and rewards opportunities this term and a reduction in the issuing of negative consequences for negative attitudes towards learning. In addition to this, we have continued to increase our focus upon British Values, health, diet and well-being, as well as equality and diversity.



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Students this term have been exceptionally good at wearing the correct uniform and we expect this to continue next term. 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 in school and that only a single pair of sleeper earrings are an appropriate piercing set for students to wear whilst on the school premises. The correct, formal school shoes must also be worn

May I please request that doctor or dental appointments are made after 2:00pm wherever possible, ensuring that you provide medical evidence (letter or appointment card) for any medical related absences. 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. I value greatly the support from all parents and carers in ensuring that our students attend school on time each and every day, and from January we will be having a targeted focus on those students and families who require support in improving attendance, working in collaboration with Newcastle Education Authority Attendance Team.

Parents/carers will be aware that over recent years, Benfield has made use of 'Show My Homework', an electronic tool to support learning at home outside of the classroom. Following an internal review of this system and its impact and effectiveness this term, we have taken a school decision to discontinue our contract with the supplying company, and from January 2020 we will be looking into a more suitable and effective replacement system to implement from September 2020, to ensure that homework is more easily accessible for parents/carers to be able to monitor and track work set for students to complete at home. For the remainder of the year from January, all students will be issued with a new student planner in which all homework set in lessons will be recorded and be able to be viewed at home.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your on-going co-operation with our policy of not authorising student holidays during term time. You will be pleased to know that your support continues to have the desired effect with impressive improvements to our attendance figures which has enabled our figures for unauthorised absences to continue to be substantially reduced.

Finally, may I take this opportunity on behalf of everyone at Benfield School to wish you and your family our very best wishes over the festive period.

Yours faithfully



Richard Carr
Headteacher