



# Meadowdale Academy Newsletter

Newsletter Date: September 2017

Headteacher: Mrs J. Finn

## Headteacher's News

Welcome back to a new school year, which has already begun with excitement, enthusiasm and smiles. New shoes and neat uniforms are being proudly worn and students are standing tall ready to pursue new ambitions.

### 'Learning today, for life Tomorrow'

I saw this quote over the holidays and it has stayed with me and travelled back to Meadowdale. It is a reminder to us all, students, parents, staff and governors that each learning opportunity is a key to opening the doors to achievement now and in the future both academically and personally. So with this in mind we begin together what we are calling, 'Our Challenge Year'. A year in which to aim high, develop essential skills and strategies to meet the challenges of learning and life to be happy and successful individuals. That journey may at times be difficult but as a school we want to nurture resilience and persistence.

Within our challenge year we will be focusing upon developing soft skills which we believe are essential to learning today

Team Work



Communication

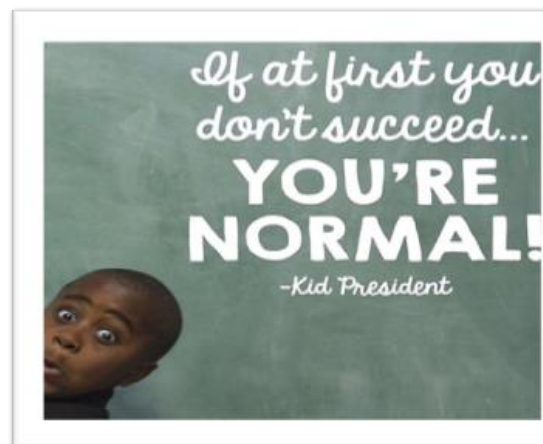
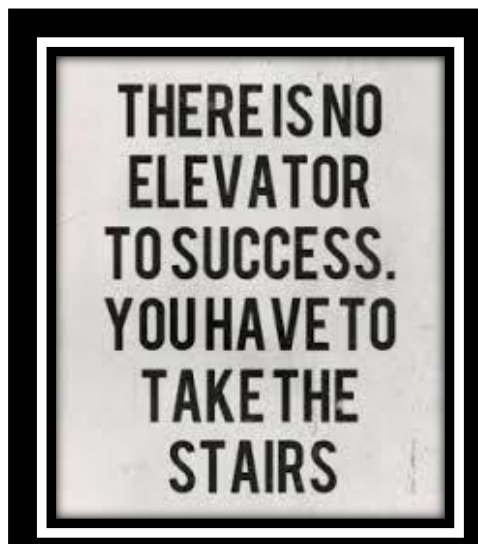


Confidence



Here's to working in partnership to tick them off.

And it's important to remember.....



Here's to a fantastic year where 'together we can make it happen'.

# OPEN EVENING

We are holding our annual open evening on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September. Many of our pupils will be ambassadors for our school at the open evening for Year 4 pupils and parents. Pupils in year 6 are also invited to find out more about their learning opportunities in KS3. Our recent Year 8 leavers were all accepted at their preferred High School of choice. This is our chance to showcase how proud we are of our unique school – spread the word!



## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Challenge yourself to trying something new. Why not join a club, try out some new skills and make some new friends:

Club	Night	Year	Finishing Time
Netball Club (Start 11/09/17)	Monday	YR 7 & YR 8	4:15pm
Rugby Club (Start 18/09/17)	Monday	YR 7 & YR8	4:15pm
Tag Rugby (Start 12/09/17)	Tuesday	YR5 & YR6	4:15pm
Board games & Chess Club	Tuesday	All Years Max 25	4:15pm
Football (Start 19/09/17)	Tuesday	YR5 & YR6 Boys and Girls Max 20	4:15pm
French Club (Start 19/09/17)	Tuesday	All Years	4:15pm
Film Club (Start 14/09/17)	Thursday	YR7 & YR8	4:15pm
Drama Club (Start 21/09/17)	Thursday	All Years	4:15pm
Circuit Training (Start 15/09/17)	Friday	All Years Max 10	4:00pm

Informal Adult & student art group meet alternate Fridays 3.15 – 5.00pm with Mr Daley – everyone welcome including siblings from other schools. Group starts Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

## Message from the Office Manager

If you feel your child is too ill to attend school please notify the school by 9:00am by contacting the school office. You must do this every day of absence unless you have informed the school that your child will be off for more than one day. We will contact you daily if we have not heard from you and the absence will go down as unauthorised.

## Year 5

### Stepping into middle school

Year Five have made their exciting leap to Meadowdale Academy and each and every child has put their best foot forward! All classes are off to a flying start in lessons and everyone has made lots of new friends. Form teachers have loved hearing about holiday memories in our show and tell and, with smiles all round, our Year Five family are settling in brilliantly.

This year, we will be 'rising to the challenge': trying new things, extending ourselves academically and persevering through any obstacles or tricky learning that we face. For updates and information, you will receive a Year Five Newsletter very soon - you could also keep an eye on our website and social media pages.

With super smart uniforms, marvellous manners and bags of enthusiasm, the children have started as they mean to go on. They are credit to you as parents and carers - for that we thank you and look forward to working with you in the coming terms.

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## Year 6

Year 6 have made a great start to the new school year showing enthusiasm for the challenges of a new school year. In just a few weeks Y6 will be visiting Holy Island as part of our Humanities studies and a letter will be coming home in the next few days with all the details. Our Year 6 residential at Ford Castle takes place in June and information regarding this adventure will also be coming out shortly.

## Year 7

Year 7 have Settled very well – they are a charismatic and energetic year group and are very excited about the challenges they face. They are looking forward to the Dukeshouse Wood residential trip which is coming up soon. Year 7 will be applying for positions of digital leaders next week. Monday night years 7 & 8 can try out for the netball team after school.

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## Year 8

It has been great to see the Year 8 pupils return to school very settled and with a mature approach for their last year at Meadowdale Academy. This year will open the doors of opportunity for everyone alongside the chance to 'challenge' themselves with responsibilities and the possibility to be very proud of their own achievements. I hope that all Year 8 pupils have a fantastic final year at Meadowdale Academy and have that confidence to take that step out of their comfort zone. Good luck.

## MFL



The European Day of Languages is a time to celebrate the 6,000 languages spoken around the world, promote language learning and have some multilingual fun and we are going to do just that at Meadowdale this year. Due to the success of this week last year, students again will be learning a different language in their MFL lessons whilst increasing their knowledge of different cultures from around the world during the week commencing the 25<sup>th</sup> September. The menu in the canteen will also take on a more international theme during the week with dishes such as Katsu Curry and Swedish meatballs.

The following languages will be taught in the department during that week; Japanese, Dutch, Italian and Swedish. Each year group will find out the language they will be learning in the near future!

We are convinced that our students here at Meadowdale will relish this new learning experience!

## English



Well, after a relaxing six week holiday, staff and students in the English department have certainly hit the ground running on returning to Meadowdale! Students have arrived eager to learn and are settling well into their new groups.

Over the next week or so, students will be completing an assessed writing task as part of their new units of study. These tasks will be marked, and each child will be given personalised targets to work on across term 1 – look out for these in the back of your child's planner.

If you would like to know more about what your child will be studying this academic year in English, please visit our school website where you can access long term plans, including our new 'Gruesome Grammar' overview. In brief, students will be studying:

Y5: Developing fiction and non-fiction writing through the theme of treasure and adventure

Y6: Developing fiction and non-fiction writing through the theme of war and conflict

Y7: Developing fiction and non-fiction writing through the study of classic and contemporary poetry

Y8: Developing fiction and non-fiction writing through the study of GCSE style poetry – Carol Ann Duffy and Simon Armitage

As I'm sure you are aware, our English SAT results were superb in 2016, and Ofsted commented on the outstanding progress our students make in English in KS2 and KS3. We look forward to welcoming you to the department at our upcoming open evening so you can see this progress for yourself. Here, I will be happy to discuss how we effectively prepare your child for high school in Y9, including the demands of the new and revised English GCSE. As well as this, if you have a child in KS2, you will have the opportunity to look at SATs revision guides which we will be selling direct from the supplier at a significantly reduced cost.

## Maths

Welcome back from all in the Maths Department, especially to our new Year 5s who have made a great impression on all their Maths teachers, well done and thank you for all your hard work.

This term we will have our Primary Maths Challenge. A chance for 10 Year 6 students to put their Maths skills to the test, competing against students from all over the country - could it be you? The Key Stage 3 challenge will follow in the Spring Term.

## Sports at Meadowdale

We are looking forward to another successful year in sport. In the curriculum we have already started working on Tag Rugby for Y6 in preparation for a team to be selected to represent Meadowdale at the Blyth /Bedlington Sports Partnership competition. The Year 7 and 8 boys are starting their contact rugby which will hopefully inspire enough pupils to come along to the after school club on Monday nights to create a new rugby team. We have again entered the U11 boys, U13 boys and girls Northumberland football leagues and cups along with the U13 girl's netball league. There are a further 22 competitions this year across the four year groups and a variety of different sports that Meadowdale will be entering. I wish those selected to represent the school the very best. Good luck.

### Future Dates for your Diary this term



- ❖ Tempest Photographer – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September
- ❖ Holy Island Year 6 – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September
- ❖ Open Evening - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September
- ❖ MacMillan Coffee Morning - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September
- ❖ Harvest Festival – 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October
- ❖ Dukeswood Year 7 - 31<sup>st</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> November
- ❖ Parent Evening - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October
- ❖ Christmas Show - First week in December
- ❖ October half term - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October
- ❖ School re-opens - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October

## Northumberland School Admissions

If your child is starting school or transferring to a different phase of education in September 2018 you need to apply for a place.

The online admissions portal for Middle High and Secondary Schools will open on 11th September 2017 and close on 31 October 2017.

First and Primary Schools will open on 5 November 2017 and close on 15 January 2018.

Copies of the Admissions Handbook and application forms are available from School Admissions County Hall Morpeth NE612EF Tel. No. 01670 624889.

We are currently full in Year 6,7 & 8 with limited places in year 5.