

Message from the Headteacher:

As most of you will be aware, following a request from members of the Parents' Forum, and in order to further safeguard our students, from 3rd February, we have introduced the rule that all students who cycle to school must wear a helmet. Thank you to the vast majority of parents who have supported us in adhering to this new rule and reinforced the message that this is to keep our children safe.

However despite repeated warnings this week, a small number of children have continued to ride their bikes without wearing a helmet. From Monday 3rd February, in line with the letters and texts informing parents of this new rule, should a child continue to ignore this rule, the bike will be locked up and only be released to the child when they are in possession of and wearing a helmet. Alternatively, you are welcome to come and collect the bike if you wish.

The vast majority of our parents are polite and courteous in all their dealings with the school, and we thank you for this. However there is a very small minority who are not, and it has recently been necessary to ban a small minority of parents from site for intimidation and the use of verbally abusive language towards members of our staff. We operate a zero tolerance policy towards any type of behaviour of this nature and this applies to everyone; our staff, students, members of the community and parents. Anyone behaving in this way will be reported to the Police and banned from site.

School breaks up on Friday 14th February at the normal time, and we return on Monday 24th February.

Safeguarding & Antbullying:

Recent Safeguarding Concerns: We have been warned by the police that there are certain areas of concern where youths are gathering and there have been incidents of antisocial behaviour. It is unsafe for children to congregate in these areas. Please remind your children that they must not frequent these areas, both for their own safety and to avoid them getting arrested. The areas are - Coleman Street, Wilkins Drive, the Spider Island (eggs being thrown off the top of the bridge), the canal path at the side of Merrill (drug dealers hanging around), the train and bus station where children are particularly vulnerable to being potentially groomed by gangs.

WhatsApp: We are aware of at least one WhatsApp group where children joining do not know all the people involved and they could be at risk of being coerced, groomed or exploited. Please ensure you vet all the groups and its members, and be aware that personal mobile numbers immediately become visible to everyone the minute a child joins such a WhatsApp group!

Safety - Walking to and from School: As the days become longer, we are aware that many of our younger children will resume walking to and from school alone. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of police advice in relation to strangers. If your child reports to you that they have been approached by an unknown person whilst they are out in the community, you must report this to the police immediately. When this is reported immediately the police have an increased chance of identifying the persons involved. If any person follows a child then they should contact the police immediately on 999 – either on their mobile phone if they have one, or by going to the nearest public place (a shop for example) and asking them to call 999.

Pupil Questionnaire:

You will recently have been emailed regarding a Survey Monkey web link. Please kindly ask your son/daughter to complete it by **Friday 14th February 2020.**

Your child's responses will offer outstanding value and provide essential feedback on the key aspects of school life. **On completion, they will also be entered into a prize draw - a prize worth having!**

Year 7 (Miss Morgan):

Form of the week: 7E who have amassed over 10,000 positives and have fantastic attendance above 96%! 😊

Stars of the fortnight:

7N – Grace Gillings 7O – Leah Domachowski
7E – Viktorija Bule 7B – Emma Suttling
7A – Amy Hancock 7K – Evelyn Hardy

Year 7 Positive Points Total: **57,790**... Amazing!

Year 10 (Miss Southern):

Form of the week: 10E for the least amount of negative marks.

Stars of the fortnight:

10B - Rosemary Amissah
10B - Ahmed Damiya - for 100% attendance and only positive reward points.

Year 8 (Miss Scott):

Form of the week: 8B for achieving the highest attendance for the week in Year 8.

Stars of the fortnight: Josh Collis, Rhian Shaw, Muhammed Muntasir and Imogen Bexon for the most positive points of the fortnight. Well done!

Year 11 (Mr Lumber):

Form of the week: 11N for the highest attendance with 96.95% - well done 11N!

Stars of the fortnight:

Ashleigh Barradell and Tegan Sparkes - for going above and beyond to support another student. Well done Ladies.

Year 9 (Mr McDonagh):

Form of the week: This goes to 9K for being the new top form for positive reward points and most reduced negative points.

Stars of the fortnight: Noah Wilson - Excellent achievement.

Erin Lee	Focus for learning.
Ilyan Vrapı	Positive contribution to lessons.
Isabelle Woolley	Engagement in lessons
Joseph Sanders-Day	Effective application in the classroom.

PSHE:

Assemblies:

3rd February - All year groups will receive sessions on mental health and staying safe around railways.

10th February - Years 7 and 9: Cognitive Science. Years 8, 10 and 11: Careers.

Thoughts for the Weeks Ahead:

3rd February - "If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader." *Dolly Parton (Singer-Songwriter)*

10th February - "The essence of knowledge is, having it, to apply it; not having it to confess your ignorance." *Confucius (Chinese Teacher)*

Future Dates for your Diary:

Year 9 Parents' and Options Evening Tuesday 4th February.

School breaks up for half term Friday 14th February.

Quality of Education: Cognitive Science tells us how students learn effectively, we then use this to inform our teaching and learning strategy ensuring everything we do is grounded in educational research.

The core areas we focus on in our curriculum design and lesson delivery are:

Cognitive load – we introduce new material in small steps in order to reduce cognitive overload. If we give students too much at once, they will not be able to transfer their knowledge from their short term memory to their long term memory.

Dual coding – dual coding is the process of combining verbal and visual materials. As this offers two ways of remembering things, students are more likely to do so.

Spacing – this is when key material is re-taught and re-visited at spaced intervals in order to help students transfer knowledge to their long term memory.

Retrieval practice - we remember and learn key knowledge by repeating and rehearsing what we need to know and do, and this is known as retrieval practice. Lessons and homework are designed to give students the opportunity to repeat and recall key information over and over again.

Attendance Matters: Noel-Baker Academy aims to meet its obligations with regards to attendance, by promoting good attendance and reducing absences. **Good attendance is classed as being above 97%** and your support is needed to ensure your child reaches this figure. Many students do, and many more of our students have an attendance rate of 100%. They will be rewarded!

For your information, a student who has attendance of 80% and below for 5 years, will miss 1,140 lessons throughout their time with us, which is the learning time equivalent of 20 GCSEs.

Illness: Could we remind parents that a dedicated 'attendance' email address has been put in place for parents to report student absences. This is attendance@noelbakeracademy.co.uk.

Our policy states that we must have written confirmation in order to authorise an absence, therefore as long as the email has come from a recognised parental email address held on our system, this will be accepted as formal written communication of absence.

Alternatively, you can notify the school via either the Gateway app or the student absence line. However in this case, we will still require formal written notification of absence from parents. The phone number for the Attendance Team is 572026 (option 2), please leave a voicemail, or use the Gateway App.

Please note, it is a mandatory requirement that if your child is off sick, **we are informed each and every day of their absence from school**. Unfortunately, it is not sufficient to contact us on just day one. If we do not hear from you, we are required to send a text asking for the reason for your child's non-attendance.

Students who arrive late, must sign in at the Attendance Office where they will be issued with a late gate card to be handed to their class teacher upon arrival to their lesson. As a result of being late, students will be issued with a one hour same day detention.

For further information, please refer to the Academy's Attendance Policy which can be found on our website.

If you have any questions about your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy's Attendance Team.

Facilities Management:

Thank you to parents and carers for supporting the school in asking children to wear helmets when cycling to school. Most children who cycle are now wearing helmets. A small number of children who have not followed the new rule have been warned that from Monday 3rd February they must have helmets or they will have their bikes confiscated.

Thank you also to the majority of parents and carers who are now using the School Gateway App to make payments for trips and school dinners. After February half term we will be phasing out the use of cash in school and children will not be able to use the machine on the wall to add money to their account.