



Northumberland East
Sixth Form Academy

Northumberland East Sixth Form Academy

Ashington Academy
Green Lane, Ashington
Northumberland
NE63 8DH
01670 812166

Bedlington Academy
Palace Road, Bedlington
Northumberland
NE22 7DS
01670 822625

22nd December 2022

NE6 – Y13 Term 1 Update Letter

Dear parent or carer,

We hope your child has had a positive start to the year over the course of Term 1. We recognise that success for our students works best when the school, home and the student work together. This year, we are aiming to keep you as informed as possible about what is going on in school and, to help with this, we are introducing a termly update to keep you posted with all things NE6.

This term is the longest of the year and students have achieved so much!

Our new Year 13 cohort have started their second year of Sixth Form positively, with a renewed focus on their upcoming exams and their next steps after school.

In terms of **careers**, almost all students applying to **university** have done so and we have had **offers** flying in from Durham, Bristol, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle and more! Many students have also had **interviews** and worked closely with our team to make sure they are ready to tackle these challenging moments. Students not looking at university have had 1:1 appointments with our team and are applying to **apprenticeships** and employment opportunities appropriate to their chosen future plans. Students interested in health care or mental health have been given the opportunity to gain a L2 qualification in Mental Health First Aid. If you feel your child is unsure of their next steps, please let us know so we can make sure they are supported further.

In their lessons and study periods students have been focused on **revision and learning**. They are beginning to understand how important **effective use of their non-contact time** is. Teachers started the year with a clear **review of Year 12 mocks** and areas for improvement and students know the A-Level exams this summer will cover all the Year 12 content as well as the new Year 13 information. Coursework subjects are working hard to manage their upcoming deadlines and revise for January exams. Form tutors and their head of year check on our students regularly with **strategies for study and revision**, classroom teachers also offer a range of resources, extra sessions and 1:1 support. We have also started some **revision support sessions** during the school day for students to sign up to for short blasts of **focused, silent study**. Ultimately it is up to the students to put the time in. As we like to say – **hark work works!**

In **PSHE**, students have covered a range of topics focusing on general wellbeing including coping strategies for **mental health**, the importance of **sleep** and stress relief techniques. This half term they have also covered the importance of **positive relationships**, differences between love and lust and the importance of communication in building strong relationships. We have also covered **consent** in sexual relations. Towards the end of the half term, we have had a renewed focus on effective revision strategies to use in the January exams.

We believe in our students becoming **rounded individuals** who can **give back** to society, so each week all students take part in critical reading looking at a topical issue in the news and a general knowledge quiz. Outside of lessons, students are also welcome to take part in any of our **30 different extra-curricular clubs** from Eco-Club to Boxing and everything in between! The **Student Executive** have also raised money for various **charities** including

Macmillan with a Bake Sale, Alzheimer's UK with a Halloween Quiz and donated a range of toys to Christmas 4 All.

December saw the return of the **12 Days of Christmas**, this is a whole school focus on **finding joy** in the little things at what can be a cold, dark and difficult time of year. Sixth Form students have taken part in a Deck the Doors competition with their tutors and a Christmas Quiz. Every year we run a **food bank collection** to support those in need over the Christmas holidays and, as always, we have been blown away by the generosity of our students and families - **thank you** to anyone who donated something. Finally, students have also celebrated Christmas by coming together for a **Christmas Dinner** and wearing their **festive outfits**.

We wish you all the best this Christmas and New Year and would ask that you encourage our students to **rest, reflect and celebrate** with you over the first part of the holidays. We also know that students have BTEC exams and mock A-Level exams from 13th January onwards so would appreciate your support in encouraging students to focus on this for the second half of the holidays, putting a few hours aside each day for study. This is their chance to **consolidate the learning** they have done so far and show themselves what they are capable of. The more effort they put in now, the less stressful the summer exams will be.

We look forward to welcoming you into school on **15th February 2023** for our **Year 13 Parents' Evening** where we can discuss your child's attainment in their mocks and plans for the rest of the year. If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Wishing you all the best,

Team NE6

(Miss Smith, Mr Laidlaw, Ms Bell, Mrs Robson & Mrs Hume)