



Northumberland East
Sixth Form Academy

Northumberland East Sixth Form Academy

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NE6 – Y12 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 12 cohort started their Sixth Form journey positively, with a great induction involving lots of **teambuilding** and working together across both sites with the National Citizenship Service. In **PSHE** they 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, managing difficult relationships and how to keep safe online.

In terms of **careers**, students have started looking at **different post-18 routes** in their form groups and we have started meeting with students 1:1 to begin their **next step plans**. Students interested in Medicine have visited a GP Practice and others interested in health care or mental health have been given the opportunity to gain a L2 qualification in Mental Health First Aid. All students have also heard from Sunderland **University** about their First Choice programme, with plans to hear from Newcastle and Durham soon too.

In their lessons and study periods students have started to adjust to the **academic rigour** of Sixth Form and are beginning to understand how to effectively use their non-contact time. Their tutors and head of year check in on them regularly with strategies for study and revision and classroom teachers also offer a range of resources and support for independent study but ultimately it is up to the students to put the time in. This half term saw their first in-class **assessment** of the content they have covered this term. If students have used their study periods effectively then their results should be a **celebration** of their hard work. If students have been less focused in their non-contact periods, then their outcomes may be disappointing. This can be an important learning point for students when considering how much hard work is required to succeed at A-Levels and BTEC L3 qualifications. As we like to say – **hark work works!**

We believe in our students becoming **rounded individuals** who can **give back** to society so each week they also take part in critical reading looking at a topical issue in the news and a general knowledge/news quiz. Our **Active Citizenship** programme launched this term, so all Year 12 students are working towards completing 30 hours of volunteering, they have had the chance to sign up to opportunities across the school like supporting KS3 students with reading or supporting teachers in class. 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! We have just recruited new Year 12 representatives to our **Student Executive** where students work with the leadership team to ensure the Sixth Form is the best it can be. 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 look forward to welcoming you into school on **25th January 2023** for our **Year 12 Parents' Evening** where we can discuss how your child has settled into Sixth Form and how they are progressing in their studies. If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Wishing you all the best this Christmas and New Year,

Team NE6

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