



**NEWBRIDGE**  
SCHOOL

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24<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As this first halfterm ends I hope this letter finds you and your family well. Below are some essential school issues for you to be aware of.

### **Year 11 - Examinations**

Year 11 have been working very hard this term and are now heading towards the final months of their time at Newbridge School. How time has flown! When they return from the halfterm holiday they will be sitting their Numeracy GCSE papers; on 15<sup>th</sup> November there is a Parents' Evening (see below); and then in December they will be beginning their mock examinations. After Christmas there will be a range of modular examinations in different subjects, before the final summer series of examinations beginning after Easter. This is a critical six months for Year 11, so please encourage them to revise over the holiday period and keep working hard from now until the summer holiday begins. As next term progresses, if you are unsure of any dates please contact Miss Bishop or the school directly (the examination timetables are not yet available but will be sent out as soon as possible). Our exam results last year were spectacular, with 44% of pupils achieving at least 5 A/A\* grades and 94% achieving 5 C grades or better. We are aiming for similar successes with this year group, and our successful revision programme will begin again in the Spring term.

### **Parents' Evenings**

Near the end of last year we consulted all parents and school staff about whether to continue with virtual Parents' Evenings or to revert to 'in-person' evenings now the pandemic has ended. There was substantial feedback, and the pros and cons of each option were present across the range of views.

I am writing to inform the whole school community that we will be reverting to 'in-person' Parents' Evenings for all year groups, with effect from this year (please see the dates below).

This was not an easy decision, as many of the positives of virtual meetings that we discovered during the pandemic have increased the convenience of the things we do. However, in discussion with the senior leadership team of the school, I feel that the personal connection families can have with their child's teacher and other school staff, and the importance of this on their education and general wellbeing in school, outweighs the convenience that virtual meetings can bring. I am also conscious that for many families, Parents' Evenings are the only time they formally visit the school and I do not want this link to be broken. Both these points came through very strongly on the parental consultation.

I will assure you that, where we can, we will continue to use virtual meetings at other times whenever they are appropriate.

Parents' Evenings dates are below. You will be written to by your child's Progress Leader in advance of the evening to remind you of the process and timings. These dates, and others, are all available on our school calendar which is accessible through our website.

Year 7: *Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January*  
Year 8: *Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February*  
Year 9: *Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December*  
Year 10: *Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April*  
Year 11: *Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November*

### **Attendance**

Please remember that full attendance for pupils to school is the target. Below 95% can begin to be a worry, and below 90% means that more than 1 day in every 10 is being missed. Please send pupils to school wherever possible, so that their education isn't interrupted. If your child has a wellbeing concern which may affect their attendance, please contact us to discuss all the options for support.

### **Uniform**

Last year we moved to plain black trainers as one option for school shoes (alongside the usual leather shoes). These must be plain black with no white/grey/coloured markings at all. Most pupils wear these sensibly but we have seen a slight increase in white or coloured markings on shoes, and these are not appropriate for school. We do not want pupils to miss lessons but we do insist on all pupils following the same rules. It is also important that pupils bring a black coat to school to give them shelter from the rain in the Winter months. Given the cost of living crisis, please contact us if you require financial assistance with any item of uniform, including shoes or coats.

### **School trips**

During the holiday our long-postponed trip to Krakow will be happening. I am sure the pupils and staff will all have a great time and learn a lot! Now that Covid is receding, school trips are coming 'back to life' and you will hear more about them as the year progresses. I would urge all families to take advantage of these opportunities wherever possible. We are looking at options to provide trips for a range of budgets so that as many pupils as possible can be involved.

I hope you and your family have a restful and enjoyable halfterm holiday. This is traditionally a time when families spend time together, often at Halloween and/or Bonfire Night events. It is imperative that all pupils behave well when out in the community and I would be grateful if you could remind your children about this – especially if you are not with them. It can be an intimidating time for older and vulnerable residents, and we do sometimes receive complaints about behaviour in the community in the evening and at weekends. This is always disappointing as the behaviour within school and on the way home is usually excellent – so please reinforce this message to your children over the holiday and be aware of where they are going, and with whom, if they do go out without you. They should not gather in large groups and must behave appropriately at all times.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. A. Thompson  
Headteacher