



Bulletin – Friday 16 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As our first half term finishes, I just wanted to thank you all for your support in these unusual times. Our students started term very positively and have only improved in terms of coping with the Covid measures. Practically all of them remember their face covering every day and have been compliant in remaining within their bubbles and following all hand sanitising guidelines.

Equally, thank you for your support when we have had to collapse any part of a bubble. We've listened to your feedback and hope that our communication when this does need to occur has become clearer. We will continue to inform all of you every time this becomes necessary. If you do have any queries, or receive any positive test results over the half term, we will continue to staff our out of hours email: covidcases@cardinal-newman.co.uk Please bear with us if the reply is slightly slower than usual, however the inbox will be checked on a daily basis.

Thank you too for supporting our Year 10 and 11 students in attending period 6. We will continue to offer opportunities for all of our students to catch up any learning lost during lockdown

Attendance

The average national attendance in secondary schools since September has been 87%, but at Cardinal Newman we have had 92% attendance. This is a reminder of how relatively fortunate we have been as a school in light of the current pandemic. It is also a reflection of the support you have given our school in trusting the measures we have put in place to keep our community safe. Thank you for the confidence you have shown in us.

A reminder also that, if your child is unable to come into school for any reason, Covid related or otherwise, please notify the school office. Particular thanks to the parents of Year 8 pupils, who have the lowest number of unauthorised absences. Year 11 currently have the highest number of absences for which we have no explanation. We would really appreciate it if you could ensure we are informed of the reasons for all absence and if Year 11 parents could make a particular effort with this it would really help us.

Year 11 Post 16 Support

In last week's bulletin I informed Year 11 parents about a presentation and video giving post 16 Open Evening information and careers advice. In the end, this



information did not find its way to the website due to unexpected staff absence. I have been assured it is there this week and can be found under the 'Parents and Carers' tab, in 'Year 11 Support.' If you are the parent of a Year 11 pupil please do take a look.

Change of Parents' Evening Dates

As you will be aware, the government have moved the GCSE exam window. Year 11 parents will have received a letter from Miss Burras regarding this process already. As a result, we have had to move other assessment windows in school, and other meetings. One impact of this is that we have had to move the dates of the parents' evenings. Additionally, Warrington have written to schools informing us that parents' evening should not take place in person for the time being. We have therefore invested in a system which will allow you to book video appointments for your child instead. As each parents' evening approaches you will receive full details of the software and how to book appointments. For now, however, please note the parents' evening dates below:

Year 8: Thursday 19th November (unchanged)

Year 11: Wednesday 27th January (changed)

Year 9: Tuesday 23rd February (changed)

Year 10: Thursday 13th May (changed)

Year 7: Wednesday 9th June (changed)

After half term we will refresh the entire calendar and reissue this to you, as well as uploading the new calendar to the school website.

Harvest Festival Thanks

The SVP from St. John Henry Newman church have been in contact with us to say a huge thank you for the contribution you made towards our Harvest Festival Collection. Richard, Clancy wrote to us to say 'Many thanks to Mrs James, your excellent staff and of course the Children who did such a wonderful job for the harvest festival. In the present climate it is quite a remarkable achievement to have helped those in special need in a time when almost everyone has problems. A sincere thanks from our SVP members and our food bank operators who are truly grateful and you can be assured it will all be distributed to those most in need.'

Thank you from us too: we are really proud of the students' support for those in need in our town.



Sports Sessions after half term

The PE Department continue to do a wonderful job of finding ways to offer sporting opportunities despite the restrictions in place. They are one of the few departments locally who are managing to overcome the obstacles created by the virus and we are very grateful to them for doing so. If your child is in Key Stage 3 and would like to participate in an after-school sporting activity, the opportunities after half term are as follows. All opportunities are open to both boys and girls.

Mondays: Year 7 Netball

Tuesday: Year 7 Rugby run by Warrington Wolves Community Foundation (please note there is no late bus service on a Tuesday)

Wednesday Week A: Year 8 Basketball

Wednesday Week B: Year 9 Basketball

We would love to see as many students as possible taking part in these activities. If your child does want to attend then please remember to go to our website and complete the track and trace form for sporting activities each week prior to the session. If your child is taking part in a sports club on a day they do not have PE they should still attend in their PE Kit.

We hope you and your family remain safe and well during half term, and look forward to seeing our students again on 26th October.

Best wishes
Jo Langstaff