



NEWSTEAD WOOD SCHOOL

"creating opportunities for success"

18 July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 10/11 Letter – Summer 2024

A couple of weeks ago we welcomed our current Year 10 students to Year 11. With this symbolic move, we will create a smooth transition into students' second year of GCSEs. I appreciate for some of them this can be a bit stressful. However, as I explained to students in our assembly, this should not be the case. They need to be *serious* about their learning but not *stressed*. From an academic perspective, having finished their End of Year exams, this should be a time of reflection. Teachers spent time in lessons reviewing the exam papers so students should know exactly how they managed, and what they need to improve. Our students should use the summer to their advantage to cover any gaps in their knowledge – for that reason teachers have shared summer tasks on Teams to be completed during the summer break. Coming back in September our students should expect, as is usual in Year 11, a series of lunch support sessions and mentoring. These will be compulsory for invited students.

Of course, summer should not be just about studying. After having completed an exciting Cultural Arts Week at the end of this term, full of enrichment, extra and co-curricular activities, learning beyond the classroom and the DofE expedition, our hard-working students deserve a proper break, to spend time with their families and friends.

Healthy living can have a huge impact into their wellbeing so I kindly ask you to ensure that our students maintain a healthy lifestyle whilst on holiday, have a balanced diet, stick to good sleeping patterns and go outside in the fresh air and not spend the whole day in front of their screens. Indeed, there is a huge discussion about a digital detox in education right now, from secondary schools in Southwark to prestige private schools like Eton which either ban the use of mobile phones or equip their students with a "brick phone" to ensure real-life communication and connection is taking place.

If you are planning to travel abroad during the summer break there are a couple of things which you need to be aware of: firstly, students can have access to their Office 365 school account whilst abroad but this needs to be arranged in advance for security reasons. If your child wishes to use their school account from overseas, they should request this from their form tutor **as soon as possible** as this needs to be done manually by our IT team.

Secondly, as you know, attendance is a key priority for our school. Any school time missed means students are not receiving the proper education they deserve. It creates gaps in their knowledge and puts them at a disadvantage compared to their peers. Obviously no absences are allowed either side of the holiday break

Headteacher: Mr Alan Blount, MA, BSc, QTS

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and if they do occur, families risk an automatic fine from the Local Authority. During term time any absence for medical reason (GP or dentist appointments etc.) needs to be minimised by scheduling appointments outside of school hours wherever possible. If this cannot happen, then you will need to forward the appointment letter/email to our attendance officer to authorise the absence. Absences for any other reason (sports competitions, music concerts, work experience etc.) need to be agreed beforehand.

From September your child will continue to benefit from a wide range of staff available to support them both academically and pastorally:

- Subject Teachers
- Form tutors
- Academic and pastoral mentors
- SENCO: Ms Ricketts
- Designated Safeguarding Lead: Ms Norris
- Support Manager: Ms Arscott
- External professionals
- Head of Year: Mr Koukouvitakis
- Assistant Headteacher Academic for KS4: Mr Daley

I am also sharing here the list of form tutors for the new year:

11N	Mrs N Smith
11W	Mr Davis (Mon, Tues) & Ms Morland (Weds - Fri)
11S	Mr L McKenna
11F	Mr A Mansell
11G	Mrs H Patel (Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri) & Mr N Patrick (Weds)
11P	Mr D Giles

Form tutors should be your first point of contact as they see the students most often. For specific academic questions you can email your child's subject teacher. For any academic and pastoral issues you can address them to myself and we will work together to achieve the best possible outcome for your child. In terms of communication time, please be mindful of staff working hours (term time only, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm).

Some students have already started asking me about Sixth Form. We are looking forward to sharing plenty of information about transition to Sixth Form over the coming year and our Sixth Form Open Evening for Newstead Wood students will take place on **Thursday 17 October**. Meanwhile, you can find information on our website [here](#), and if you or our students have any questions regarding Sixth Form, they can email our Sixth Form team at sixthform@newsteadwood.co.uk.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you well for the summer break and I look forward to working together with you and our students in order to help them achieve their full potential and enjoy a happy life in Year 11.

With my warmest regards,

Stylianos Koukouvitakis

Mr S Koukouvitakis
Head of Year 11