



NORTH CESTRIAN SCHOOL

DUNHAM ROAD, ALTRINCHAM
CHESHIRE, WA14 4AJ

Headmaster: L R Bergin

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4 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

It was so nice to welcome all our new Year 7s this week during the induction days on Thursday and Friday, and we look forward to the Year 10s and 11s on Monday 7th and the Year 8s and 9s on Tuesday 8th.

I want to pay tribute to our staff who had been in earlier in the week on INSET. The whole school has been undergoing significant change over the last few years, all the time growing in numbers significantly. These changes have been planned and designed to make the whole educational experience better for pupils and staff. However, changes imposed because of Covid regulations, while necessary, diminish that experience. We want nothing more than to see smiling faces and not those covered by masks; we'd rather hold group assemblies than class TEAM meetings, we'd rather see pupils running around the playground instead of being confined by bubbles. Despite this, staff are taking everything in their stride. They have met every challenge with patience, care and utter professionalism.

Developments

We welcome some new members of staff:

Miss Hall – accelerated learning teacher, while Mrs Rylands is on maternity leave

Mrs Vaughan – Maths

Mr Cliffe – PE

Mrs Hancock – Science

Mr Worswick – Computing

Mrs Few – History while Miss McTiernan is on maternity leave

Mr Gallamore – Careers

Dr Saker-Clark – Science

Mr Wilson – Music

Mrs Holmes (SENCO) has become part of the senior leadership team (SLT)

Some building work has taken place:

Room L2 has now been fully converted to a second Computing Suite. I am grateful to the PTFA for the funding of this great addition to school facilities. Some landscaping has been carried out to the Quad to bring more light and to clear space for an extension to the Canopy (packed lunch area). This will be particularly useful as autumn and winter set in! A considerable amount of infrastructure work has taken place and I am thankful to Governor McGuire for his oversight on this. A lot of work has gone in to make the site 'Covid Secure' and I thank Mr Bloomfield and Mr Webber and their teams for the extra cleaning and enhanced sanitisation facilities in place.

Covid Updates

As with all other organisations, we are trying to provide as full a service as we can whilst following latest guidelines. It is new territory for us all and we will no doubt need to revisit arrangements as pupils arrive and we get into the flow and ebb of school life, so please bear with us.



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- Catering is a challenge with a reduced offering, need for more time wiping down surfaces, distancing from the serving hatches and so on. For now, we will have a mix of pre-ordered and served meals: this may change as we get full numbers in. **YEAR 7 & 8 Parents please check Parentmail for a pre-order form.**
- All persons must wear face coverings in corridors during lesson transitions. Pupils may wear coverings in lessons if they wish.
- Hands must be sanitised when entering the school grounds and between lessons, using the many sanitisation points.
- We will monitor the number of pupils going into the toilets at any time to avoid excessive numbers.
- There is a one-way system throughout the school to avoid face to face contact as much as possible.

If a child is showing symptoms of coronavirus, we will remove them from lessons and isolate them in our hygiene room, call parents to collect and then require the child to be tested for Covid. The child will not be allowed back into school unless they are then shown to have had a negative test result – please ensure you can prove this to school.

If the child tests positive, then they will need to isolate at home for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms.

If someone in the child's household tests positive, then the child should remain at home for 14 days from the onset of the household symptoms. Please inform school as soon as this isolation takes place.

In the meantime – stay safe and great to see you all back next week

Mr Bergin