



*Enabling young people to achieve success*

9 September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

### Exceptional GCSE & Post16 Results 2022

We are extremely proud of our students who achieved fantastic results in their exams, despite the disruption and challenges they have faced over the last few years. Ofqual announced grades would fall this year as we returned to national exams from teacher assessment, but we have not seen a fall.

### Year 11 results

- GCSE grades are record breaking, with 74% of students achieving a Grade 5 or higher in English and Maths and 87% achieving a Grade 4 or higher in English and Maths.
- The proportion of high grades (7-9s) is also the highest we have seen in many subjects with over 40% of students achieving Grade 7-9 in at least 2 subjects.
- Most importantly, the vast majority of our students have made excellent progress across a range of subjects. Early indications are that the attainment of our students is among the highest in the city and well above national average, from an average starting point in Year 7.

### Post-16 results

- At A Level, there was a 100% pass rate, with more than one third of grades at A or A\* and 64% A\*-B grades. The average A Level award was a Grade B and in vocational qualifications it was a Distinction.
- Progress is not being measured this year but our Y13 students have achieved higher grades than in 2019 where Allerton were top in the city for progress with similar starting points.
- Virtually all students secured their places in Higher Education which included entry to the University of Oxford, dentistry and medicine. We wish all students well at university, during their GAP Year or in the world of work and look forward to hearing of their future successes.

Y10 students (who completed 1 or 2 GCSE courses) performed well.

All students showed a great deal of determination and resilience and fully deserve the success they achieved. We are also very grateful to all Allerton High staff and families for the time they devoted to helping students.

### Reporting of Headline figures

Unfortunately, when the DfE report student progress this year they are not going to include any grades achieved by current Year 11 students last year because they were Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). This means that for schools like ours, where students study and sit some qualifications in Year 10, up to one third of their grades will be missing. Our approach allows us to combine Year 10 and 11 classes to offer more subjects, but not many schools do this. Therefore compared to most other local schools, our Progress will appear low because we have grades missing and they don't.

This does not affect students as Post-16 and Post-18 providers do include grades achieved by students last year when considering whether students have met entry requirements.

### Point of contact for parents & carers

SEND Issues	-	Mrs L Oliver [SEND Manager]
Head of Year 7 [Y7 & 8 Office]	-	Miss R Carr
Head of Year 8 [Y7 & 8 Office]	-	Mrs E Knill
Head of Year 9 [KS 4 Office]	-	Mr J Odu
Head of Year 10 [KS4 Office]	-	Miss S Broadhead
Head of Year 11 [Y 11 Office]	-	Mrs E Matthews
Head of 6 <sup>th</sup> Form [12 & 13 Office]	-	Mr G Clynes

[Mrs Tidman/Miss Menzer/Mrs Merckel also support the Year 12 & 13 Office]

As teachers are with their students throughout the day and have several classes, they do not respond routinely to parent concerns or issues. Year Heads are the first point of contact for parents/carers. Parents should contact the general office as a first step and ask for the relevant office. If the Head of Year is not available when you call, the Year Manager or Year Coach associated with the year group will either take the call or phone you back. The Office may direct you to a Curriculum Team Leader if your query concerns a particular subject. Alternatively, you can make contact with school via [info@allertonhigh.org.uk](mailto:info@allertonhigh.org.uk). Please contact my PA, Mrs Johnson-Laird if you need to make an appointment with me.

The next meeting of Parents' Forum is on Wednesday 12 October from 6 to 7-15pm which provides you with an opportunity to ask about any aspect of the school's provision. All are welcome especially new Year 7 parents but please indicate ahead if you wish to attend by contacting the General Office.

### Behaviour & Equality Policies

Current copies of our Positive Behaviour and Equality policies are available on the school website or parents/carers can contact the school to receive a copy of either policy. The Positive Behaviour Policy will be reviewed in the autumn term and parents should contact Mrs Johnson-Laird with questions/concerns about either policy.

Although schools can keep students in detention, we always give notice in the Personal Organiser and also send a parent/carer email informing you if your child has a detention. If a student has lost the Organiser or has not shown it to a parent, we don't re-arrange the detention but ask them to contact you to let you know where they are. We ask that you check the Personal Organiser daily and check phone/text messages and emails.

We have asked students to have a school bag big enough for text books, the Personal Organiser and a bottle of water. We expect students to fill water bottles at break and lunch. Students should not bring fizzy drinks into school nor family size bags of crisps, biscuits and chocolates in line with our healthy school's policy.

### Expansion

Additional temporary classrooms to help us accommodate 280 Year 7 students this September have been installed but the new building will not be ready until later this academic year. Our current accommodation is congested so we have made very clear to students our expectations regarding movement around the building. It is exceptionally busy at lesson changeover times. Students can help by walking on the left, using the back stairs where possible and being patient.

### Cycling to school

We want to encourage students to cycle to school but they must register on Operoo if they wish to do so. Parent/Carers are asked to sign the form [available on Operoo] to confirm awareness of the conditions attached to bringing a cycle to school.

Please be aware of the following:

- Cycles are brought at students' own risk. We cannot guarantee safety/security
- Students should not ride cycles inside the school grounds
- Students must bring their own cycle locks to secure the cycle to the posts
- Students found to be disregarding this guidance will be refused permission to bring their cycle to school

We strongly advise that students wear a cycle helmet when travelling to and from school.

### Car Parking

Please do not drop your children off or pick up in the school car park; there simply is no space. We have disabled parking spaces on site which must be free for users with a disability. We encourage our youngsters to



walk to school. However, if you are dropping off/collecting please use the neighbouring Park & Ride facility, being considerate of other users.

We receive complaints about the number of parents who block the roundabout near the entrance to the Park & Ride – some parents often pick students up in the bus lane or enter the Park & Ride but try to immediately turn round to leave rather than queue to get out.

Please pass the description of a vehicle, its registration number and /or the name of the driver if you know it, to Reception if you are concerned about driver behaviour. We will then ask our Safer Schools Police Officer to intervene.

If you need access to the school's car park to make use of the disabled spaces, we can arrange that for you if you contact Mrs Hameed, Business Manager.

### Data Collection

Please let us know of any changes to your details as we want to send information electronically and we also text parents with reminders so your co-operation with this is vital. If you have moved house, please let us know the new address.

We would also appreciate it if parents would contact school if they have ever received Free School Meals, have an adopted child or their circumstances have changed and they now are entitled to universal credit. If school is unaware, we cannot claim additional funding which will benefit your youngster. We understand that this information is sensitive but please be reassured, the conversation will be completely confidential; please phone the Finance Office and ask for Mrs Hameed, Business Manager.

### Extra-curricular Activities

A programme of activities will be distributed in Coaching over the next week; the programme will also be available on the website.

Older students have coursework catch-up sessions on Tuesday and Thursday until 4.30pm. They will be stretched by the volume of work expected at GCSE but there is Support Club available Monday-Thursday until 4.00pm [3.30pm Friday] for students in all years where members of staff are available to help students with projects and homework.

### Catering

You can make on-line payments to 'Chartwells' via Parent Pay [www.parentpay.com]. You should have personal log in details but can contact the school's Finance Office if this is a problem. Cheques made payable to 'Chartwells' can be handed to the Catering Manager and students can use the REVAL machines to top up their accounts if you prefer. Members of staff at Chartwells have made us aware of a slight increase in prices [a copy of their price list is on our website] together with the 'Grab Bag' form available when going on visits.

### Personal Organiser & Gateway

All students are issued with a Personal Organiser so they can plan their learning and keep information relating to school in a central place. Students should be logging homework details and information relating to progress. It is important that students always have the Organiser; if they forget it a second time, we will contact you to ask you to bring it in. The Personal Organiser should be graffiti free. If it is unfit for purpose a replacement costs £4.50.

You should have been given access to Gateway so that you can check on the Achievement points and Behaviour codes issued by staff to your child/ren through the course of the day. Please contact school if you have not had this information.



### Edmodo – company closure

During the summer break we were informed that Edmodo will no longer be trading and so we will need to look for an alternative online learning platform. We are currently have a shortlist with a view to switching as quickly as possible [further details to follow]. Edmodo will be available for use up to and including Thursday 22 September. If students have any resources or work saved to the Edmodo platform [that they don't already have a copy of] they will need to download this to their school user area. Students have already been informed of Edmodo's closure through an e-mail to their school account including instructions on how to download their data. Unfortunately if this isn't done before Edmodo is closed the work will be lost as all accounts and associated materials are being deleted by the company in accordance with GDPR requirements.

### Dress Code

We have not changed the uniform requirements other than to insist girls and boys wear more tailored trousers rather than the legging/drain pipe thin style which seems to be the fashion just now. Students should be wearing all black shoes and if they are not, we can provide a pair of plain black plimsolls for the day. If students are not following the dress code for whatever reason, they are isolated at break and lunch so others do not follow suit thinking we have changed our approach on any aspect of uniform policy.

We appreciate your support in maintaining high standards of dress in school.

### Mobile Phones

Just to remind all parents/carers that students should not have mobile phones in school. If they are seen, staff will confiscate them. Students must come to my office at the end of the school day and wait for the phone to be returned but this will not be before 4pm. We will message you to inform you that your child is waiting at school to collect their phone.

If you want your child to have access to their phone, they should place it at the bottom of their school bag and take it out *after* school on their way home. If you have an urgent message, please contact the General Office; staff will assist you.

We appreciate your support with this as young people will find it difficult to be without their phone throughout the day following the 6-week break.

### Year 8 Team Building

Year 8 students will participate in a team building event at Nell Bank Centre during week beginning 12 September. Once details are finalised, we will provide information about the residential experience which we offer to students later in their school career.

### Subject Consultation Evenings & Events this half-term

We have a year 12 Welcome Evening on Monday 12 September so that we can provide parents/carers with an overview of how the 6<sup>th</sup> Form works because it is important our young people get off to the best possible start in terms of 6<sup>th</sup> Form study.

We also have a Welcome Evening for Year 7 Parent/Carers on Thursday 22 September. This is an opportunity for parents to meet their son/daughter's Coach but there are also short presentations about our systems such as Positive Behaviour and how we track progress which parents can also drop into; additional information will be distributed by Miss Carr but we look forward to meeting new parents on that night.

Following consultation with parents/carers and staff last term, we will run Subject Consultation Evenings remotely in 2022-23. 534 parents/carers responded to the consultation – 58% agreed video appointments would be better, 17% weren't bothered and 25% disagreed. The majority of staff wanted remote Subject Consultation Evenings. We will be in touch about the arrangements for each event nearer the time with detail outlining how we will best support those with connectivity/equipment issues. We will see how things go and review the approach towards the end of the academic year.



- 12 September - Y12 Welcome Evening for parents/carers 6pm [School Hall]
- 14, 16, 19 September - Year 8 Team Building at Nell Bank
- 20 September - Y11 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition Practice Day
- 21 September - Y11 Information Evening 6.30pm-7.30pm. [Parent/carers of Y11 students will receive a letter shortly with details of the event].
- 22 September - Year 7 Welcome Evening from 4-7pm [School Hall]
- 28 September - HPV vaccinations for Y8 students
- 29 September - Training Day and Open Evening for Y6 students  
[School closed to students]
- 4 October - Full Governors' Meeting
- 6 October - Y13 Subject Consultation Evening 4-7pm [held remotely]
- 7 October - Y11 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition [green band]
- 12 October - Parents' Forum Meeting 6-7.15pm.  
[All welcome but please contact the General Office to confirm your attendance]
- 14 October - Y11 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition [white band]
- 19 October - Y10 Subject Consultation Evening 4-7pm [held remotely]
- 20 October - Arrangements for the presentation of GCSE certificates to last year's Y11 to be confirmed
- 21 October - School finishes for half-term break  
Half-term holiday 24 October – 28 October

During this half-term, we will be formally consulting with students in Year 12 about how we prepared them for the GCSE examinations in summer 2022 and we will consult with Year 7 students about the transition programme and how we supported them in their move to Allerton High.

I appreciate your support as we start another academic year. As ever, if you need any support or have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to make contact.

*E Silson*

Mrs E Silson  
Headteacher

