



# Allerton High School

*Enabling young people to achieve success*

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**October 2022**

**Dear Parent/Carer**

## **Bonfire Night**

During the first week back after half-term we will be speaking with students in assemblies about keeping safe in the approach to Bonfire Night. We will stress the point that used irresponsibly, fireworks can cause damage to property and do significant harm to people and animals. Not only is there a danger from fireworks exploding, they can also pose a serious fire risk as well. In addition, it is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to possess fireworks and set them off in any public space (this includes parks and roads). It would be helpful if you could reinforce this message at home.

Information about firework safety is available at [www.saferfireworks.com](http://www.saferfireworks.com)

Leeds City Council's Safer Stronger Communities Team will be working closely with partners in areas across the city to mitigate any potential negative impact of fireworks and associated anti-social behaviour in the run up to and on Bonfire Night. This work will be focussed in those areas that are known to have experienced anti-social behaviour around bonfire night in previous years.

## **Parking**

We remain concerned about the parking on Nursery Lane before and after school. Our Safer Schools Police Officer has asked that I remind all those dropping off/picking up that they must adhere to traffic regulations.

## **Release of examination results**

The government has published performance data from the summer 2022 exams for all secondary schools for the first time since 2019.

As reported in a previous newsletter, Allerton students did extremely well. The GCSE English and Maths headlines were the highest we've had, as were the Year 13 grades. The other measures reported for Year 11, such as Progress 8, are lower than usual but only because the government have not included the grades Year 11 students achieved in their Year 10 options.

The Department for Education (DfE) has been clear that, given the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on different students and schools, data should be treated with caution this year. For Allerton, the data reported is inaccurate because of missing grades rather than the impact of the pandemic being any worse than at other schools. Most schools in Leeds don't enter students for qualifications in Year 10 and won't have grades missing like we do. In addition, the data released does not contain grade increases as a result of re-marks verified during September. The data will be published again early next year with these grades included.

Progress 8 is a relative measure based on students' progress from primary school in eight subjects. A score of 0 indicates average progress. A score between 0 and 1 indicates above average progress and a score between 0 and -1 indicates below average progress. Our Progress 8 figure is between 0 and 1 despite around one third of the grades not being included.

There are no progress figures reported for post-16 this year. Normally, the Department for Education publishes progress figures for A levels, using students' GCSE grades as a baseline. However, because the 2022 cohort received centre-assessed grades in 2020 rather than national GCSE exams, the government committed to not using these for accountability purposes.

The publication of results does not directly impact students at all. Students already received their own GCSE, A level and VTQ results in August. Equally, all grades achieved by students are included when they apply to Post-16 and Post-18 providers even when they are not included in the data published by the Department for Education.

Additional information about what has been published and how the measures were calculated, is available on our website for those who want more detail.

### **Picking up younger students**

We know a number of our students pick younger siblings up at the end of the day from primary schools in the area. Can we ask parents to re-inforce the message that students should go on to the primary school premises *on their own*? If they are accompanied by friends, it would help our primary colleagues if friends could wait outside to avoid congestion onsite. Your support with this would be greatly appreciated.

### **Uniform**

Just to re-iterate, students are expected to have appropriate uniform at all times. If students are not in school dress for whatever reason, they will be supervised at break and lunch. This is so we can avoid the rest of the school community thinking they too can wear their own version of our dress code because they see others enjoying social time out of uniform. This is not a change in school policy.

### **Communication**

A reminder that codes and achievement points issued to students during lessons can be viewed via the School Gateway. Codes issued around school can be viewed on the weekly pages of the Personal Organiser. If students are required to attend an after school detention parents and carers will be notified of this via an email, which will include the date of the scheduled detention. An email will also be sent to the student's school email account. In addition, students are notified of detentions during coaching

### **Expansion**

The building is very congested given that we have 280 Year 7 students for the first time. We have to limit Post-16 numbers to 400 but still find ourselves teaching in areas we haven't had to previously use. The new building is on schedule to be completed at Easter and we will be able to plan to move into the new accommodation during the summer term after the external examinations. Students have been very patient and co-operative with room changes and movement around the building.

### **Wider Opportunities**

A number of events, visits and opportunities have been arranged over the past half-term for students in different year groups. Students in Years 10 and 11 have completed their Duke of Edinburgh Award; students have visited Hornsea for a Geography visit; all students in Year 10 were involved in a workshop about the impact of criminality and anti-social behaviour called, 'Prison? Me? No way!' A number of students went to the theatre to see Othello and there have been numerous after school activities in various sports, music and art. The Year 10 footballers [Leeds' champions last season] have had an excellent start to this academic year, beating several local teams in Leeds and North Yorkshire.

### **Progress Review 1**

Internally we have been reviewing students' progress and their attitude to learning. Later this week we will send details about some changes we have made to the process and by week ending 18 November, all parent/carers will have received the Progress Review data.



## Calendar dates

As examination certificates have taken longer to be released to schools in recent years, we have re-scheduled the presentation of GCSE certificates. It will now take place on Thursday 3 November at 5pm

Friday 4 November	-	Y8 HPV Immunisations
Tuesday 15 November	-	Music Competition Final 7pm
Wednesday 16 November	-	Year 11 Subject Consultation Evening
Monday 21 November	-	Donations for GIFT COLLECTION during this week
Wednesday 30 November	-	Year 11 & K4 Mock Exams start [finish 15 December]
Thursday 1 December	-	Year 9 Subject Consultation Evening
Tuesday 6 December	-	Celebration of Festivals from 3.15pm [Year 7 students]
Thursday 8 December	-	Celebration of Festivals from 3.15pm [Year 7 students]
Wednesday 14 December	-	Winter Concert 7pm
Friday 16 December	-	School Photographs Y9 & Y11
		Finish for Christmas [from 12.30 pm]

Please contact us if you have any issues or concerns via your child's Year Office. Thank you for your ongoing support.



Elaine Silson  
Headteacher.

