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Our ref: CK/RCY

Headteacher: Mrs Emma Anderson

Chair of Governors: Mr Steve Chew

22 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

At the end of another week I hope you and your family are well and coping during these uncertain and challenging times. Our overwhelming priority as a school is to ensure that your child receives a first class education and continues to feel that strong sense of belonging that we value so highly as a school. We will regularly communicate key messages and this letter covers various aspects which will be relevant to you and your child.

Assessment 1 Report

Despite the disruption we have faced this year we have continued to focus on delivering a rich knowledge based curriculum for our students and your child sat a series of assessments prior to the Christmas break. You will be receiving your child's report over the next week and I wanted to explain what the report will contain.

The report will outline the following for each of your child's subjects:

- **Knowledge %** - An indication of the overall percentage for the knowledge section of the assessment paper, which shows how well your child has remembered key facts and facets of knowledge from their lessons.
- **Application %** - An indication of the overall percentage for the application section of the assessment paper, which shows how well your child was able to apply their knowledge in different contexts or to particular styles of questions.
- **Assessment 1 %** - This is the overall percentage when combining marks from the knowledge and application sections.
- **Average % of students of a similar ability** – This is the average percentage achieved, across the year group, by students of a similar ability to your child. This allows for some comparison of how well you child performed during Assessment 1.
- **Attitude to Learning Grade** – An indicator of your child's approach to their learning in lessons.
- **Attitude to Learning Homework Grade** – An indicator of your child's approach to homework.

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It is important to note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic there was some disruption to Assessment Cycle 1 so some assessments were sat remotely and through catch-up sessions in school. This may therefore have had some impact on the overall marks for some students. In response to this we have regularly reviewed our curriculum and teaching to ensure that knowledge is revisited and gaps in knowledge have been, and will continue to be, addressed. Please note there may be some gaps on the reports because they may not have sat the assessment.

At Newfield School we aspire for our students to be curious and have a thirst for knowledge. Your child's dedication and engagement in their learning during the first term of this academic year will be best reflected in their attitude to learning grades. We feel that focus on these grades will therefore be beneficial for supporting your child's further progress throughout the rest of the academic year. It is also important to re-emphasise that it is key for your child to continue to actively engage with their remote learning and seek regular support from their teachers.

If you have any queries about your child's report and wish to discuss anything further, please contact your child's Head of Year, Miss Illingworth (Head of Upper School) or myself.

Personal Development Lessons

Personal development lessons take place at Newfield School to provide students with curriculum opportunities that explore and develop their own values, whilst recognising that those of others may differ. The personal development curriculum covers a wide range of topics including how to lead a healthy lifestyle, good mental health, how to cultivate healthy relationships through school life and beyond and how to positively contribute to communities at a local, national and international level. Students are encouraged to think logically and maturely about wider issues and how to make informed decisions which support their beliefs and values, with coherent reasoning behind these.

During these uncertain times we feel that it is vitally important that these lessons continue throughout the lockdown period. The lesson takes place at different times in order to provide equity across the curriculum and these can be seen in the table below;

Date	Day	Period
28/01/21	Thursday	2
02/02/21	Tuesday	4
12/02/21	Friday	2
25/02/21	Thursday	4
19/03/21	Friday	4
22/03/21	Monday	4
31/03/21	Wednesday	4

Students will be expected to complete their personal development lesson, either uploaded by their form tutors or Miss Fort, rather than their regular timetabled lesson.

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Calendar Updates

In light of the current school closures and no date set for when we will fully reopen to all students we have had to review upcoming events in the school calendar. In particular, we have had to adapt some of our Year 9 Options Process and therefore the INSET Day that was previously calendared for Friday 5 February will now be moved to Friday 5 March instead. Year 9 Parents' Evening will now take place during this day, rather than Thursday 4 March. This day will also allow for SLT interviews to take place so that we can best support your child with the choices they make. Further details for the Options Process will be communicated in due course.

As a school we have been inundated with messages of support and gratitude relating to the work we are doing with our young people. During difficult times we discover what our character is made of and the pandemic has shone a light on the wonderful spirit of the Newfield School community. We will endure and as we make progress towards a greater sense of 'normality' the words of Henry Ford are pertinent when he says, "coming together is the beginning, keeping together is progress and working together is success". This epitomises Newfield School.

Let's stick together, ensure we follow the health advice and remember that we do this as a society. Stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.

Yours sincerely



Mr C Kirton

Assistant Headteacher