

10 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the first week of the new school year already completed, it has been wonderful to welcome back our students and see them make such a fantastic start to life in Year 9. I have been impressed with how well they have adapted to new procedures and expectations compared to those in place last year, as our school routines steadily return to a sense of normality.

Our school community has remained so admirably strong throughout the pandemic and has continued to adapt to the forever changing policies both within and outside of Northampton School for Girls with such great resilience. I speak on behalf of not only myself but every staff alike, that we could not be prouder of the high levels of independence and maturity that we have seen by each and every learner over the past 18 months. It has been lovely to see so many smiling faces around school not hidden by a mask. On the other hand, it is also clear that our students are making mature and informed choices when to socially distance and we recommend they continue to wear one, particularly in instances where this may not be possible.

With this cohort experiencing two periods of remote learning last year, it is now more important than ever that they aspire for outstanding attendance to minimise any further disruption to their learning. With this in mind, our school attendance target continues to be 97%. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of attendance this academic year, as Year 9 students will begin studying GCSE courses in English, Maths and Science; and will start to explore the options available for them to study in Year 10 later this year. Being punctual is equally important for maximising learning potential and I have been really pleased to see our Year 9 students eagerly getting to lessons on time. Every day is vital in our children's education and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support with this.

In the extended tutor time on the first day back and in our first full assembly as a cohort, students were reminded of our expectations which are outlined clearly in our 6 'NSG Expects'. It has been a delight to witness the exceptional levels of behaviour and respect our students have shown this first week, as well as taking great pride in how they represent the school by having the correct uniform. If you are unsure whether your child is wearing the correct uniform, the expectations regarding this are available via our school website.

<https://www.nsg.northants.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=225>

Looking ahead, there will be many exciting opportunities presented to our students which I encourage all learners to consider. We are now able to resume an extensive array of extracurricular activities, including a number of sports, alongside drama, Signature dance groups and the Eco-Council to name a few. These will resume in the week commencing 13th September, with a timetable and further details on how to sign up to these being on our website. We also currently have the production of Billy Elliot the Musical, which many of our students are excited to be a part of. This will showcase in February 2022, with auditions commencing this term. There is a Google classroom for those involved to join, where learners will be able to receive regular updates on meetings, auditions and rehearsals over the coming months.



I am really looking forward to seeing our Year 9 students flourish this year and I remain fully committed to supporting them in all aspects of school life. I appreciate that there is a lot to take on board at the start of a new school year, so if you do have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's tutor via the email addresses below.

Yours sincerely



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Head of Year 9 Oak

Year 9 Oak Tutor Team:

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