

October 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

A Record Year for North Axholme

I am taking the opportunity to write to you to let you know about the record breaking achievements of our year 11 leavers who gained record GCSE results in the summer. Here is a summary of their results:

- 86% 5 or more GCSE grades at A* - C, a new record
- 49.5% 5 or more GCSE grades at A* - C including English and maths, a new record
- 99% 5 or more GCSE grades at A* - G
- 98% 5 or more GCSE grades at A* - G including English and maths
- 58.3% gained an A* - C grade in maths, a new record

These are top class results that reflect the tremendous amount of hard work put in by our students, my teaching and support staff and parents. I continually seek to improve this partnership as it is so important in making sure every student achieves their best. These results will rank us high in terms of value added when that information is published later in the year. This is important as it shows that we enable our students to do better than those of similar ability and backgrounds nationally.

You will recall that we had an Ofsted inspection just over a year ago and that whilst we did well in most areas, inspectors agreed with us that we needed to improve GCSE maths results. The outcomes of our monitoring inspection in April were very favourable and concluded that we were making good progress in addressing the issues raised in the initial inspection. Over the course of the year we have worked very hard to improve results in maths. This included recruiting a new Head of Maths, Miss Thirsk, in April. She, along with her colleagues in the maths department, have worked tirelessly to achieve much improved results which were above the national average. This is fantastic news and is an area that we will continue to improve.

We are due another full Ofsted inspection during the next 4 months, I will contact you as soon as I receive the 2 days notice before inspectors arrive. Many other measures of our performance are very strong such as excellent attendance, very good behaviour, excellent rates of progression onto post-16 learning and the quality of our care, guidance and support. We will approach the inspection with confidence and hope that inspectors will recognise what a good school North Axholme is.

I would also like to take this opportunity to outline the methods we will use to communicate with parents/carers this year, over and above our annual academic consultation arrangements. These are:

- Student Planners: This should be used to record homework and reminders, and can be used to write notes between school and parents/carers and vice versa.

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- Class record book stickers: These show how many times students were written in the praise and/or concern columns in the class record book during the previous week. These are stuck in students' planners and signed by parents/carers weekly.
- Praise postcards: These are sent home to recognise sustained hard work in at least three subjects over a period of three weeks.
- Effort grade report card: These are sent home termly and contain students' effort grades, average effort grade and effort grade rank within the year group.
- Mid-year review: The academic performance of all students is reviewed in January. Parents/carers of students identified as at risk of being demoted to a lower band at the end of the year are notified and targets for improvement are agreed.
- End of year reports: A full annual report containing teacher comments, effort grades, KS3 levels, KS4 predictions, exam results and attendance data.
- Text messaging service: This enables us to contact parents via text message when we need to get messages out quickly. For this to be effective, please let us have your mobile phone number if it changes.
- End of year review: On Thursday 14th July, parents/carers will have the opportunity to meet with form tutors to discuss end of year reports and students' progress made since the Academic Consultation Evenings in January.

Below is a list of key dates for parents' evenings, Academic Consultation Evenings and progress reports for this academic year:

Tuesday 19 th Oct:	Year 10 'settling in' parents' evening with subject teachers
Wednesday 3 rd Nov:	Year 7 'settling in' parents' evening with form tutors
Friday 7 th Jan:	Year 7–10 effort grade report cards
	Year 11 annual reports
Thursday 13 th Jan:	Year 11 parents' evening with subject teachers
Wednesday 19 th Jan:	Year 7–10 Academic Consultation Evening with form tutors (1)
Tuesday 25 th Jan:	Year 7–10 Academic Consultation Evening with form tutors (2)
Friday 29 th Apr:	Year 7–11 effort grade report cards
Friday 8 th Jul:	Year 7–10 annual reports and effort grade report cards
Thursday 14 th July:	Year 7–10 end of year review meetings

Finally, I would also like to point out that our website has been updated with the following key documents:

- Target setting and progress tracking arrangements
- Assessment, Recording, Reporting and Academic Consultation schedule 2010/11
- Extra-Curricular Activities - Autumn/Spring
- Holidays in term time

Yours sincerely

J. SELLARS
Headteacher