



16 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As the academic year draws to a close, we are delighted to share our successes with you.

We take great pride in our students' achievements. They have kept one another safe through wearing face masks and hand sanitising upon entry and at lesson change overs during the day. Even during the colder weather, they recognised the need for us to keep classrooms well-ventilated and followed Covid protocols. Our students are also kind and we have been incredibly touched this past week by their support for our former student, Mica Lee, raising over £600 in a non-uniform day to support her with her plans to volunteer in Tanzania as part of her studies to become a paramedic.

Throughout the academic year, our staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure that no student is disadvantaged by Covid. At the start of the year, each subject leader was asked to produce a plan outlining how any Covid gaps would be addressed. Throughout the year, we have met with each subject leader to discuss the progress of our students in light of the challenges the pandemic has brought. We have also continued to focus on our curriculum in terms of ensuring it remains ambitious, broad and balanced. In addition, we are proud of the pastoral care our students receive; if your child should need support over the Summer holiday period, the following [link](#) provides useful contacts for parents.

Despite the challenges this year has presented, we are proud that daily attendance has been, on average, higher than national figures. Over one third of our student community has achieved the NOA attendance target of 97%. Attendance remains a focus for us when we return in September. We know there is a proven link between regular school attendance and academic performance.

Our student community has continued to impress with their determination, resilience and hard work. Through the early part of 2021, students were recognised for their engagement in remote learning with nearly 1000 praise postcards sent home to celebrate their efforts. Since students have been back at school, we have continued to acknowledge their hard work by sending subject and tutor praise postcards each week, as well as issuing reward points. Over 1700 Commendation Letters have been sent throughout this academic year to share student success with parents and carers in all subject areas.

On 10 and 12 August respectively, our Year 13 and Year 11 students will receive their 'Teacher Assessment Grades' (TAGS). An incredible amount of work linked to TAGS has been undertaken; staff training about avoiding unconscious bias and careful moderation and standardisation within school. Our thoughts will be with our Year 13 and Year 11 students, and it was lovely to be able to say a final farewell to them recently at their leavers' events.



North Oxfordshire Academy

The best in everyone™

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Our academy Behaviour Policy will be changing for the new academic year. This is to encourage students to make the right decisions in school both within and outside the classroom. Details of these changes are included [here](#). We are confident that these changes will support the learning and attitudes of our students even further.

Summer at the academy will be busy as we are running a Summer School for our Year 7 students to support them with their transition to NOA and to the next stage of their education. Staff will also be receiving training for our new management information system, Arbor. This will be replacing Go4Schools and will provide you with the same information such as student timetables and details about student attendance, academic progress and behaviour. More information about when Arbor will be available for parents will be issued at the beginning of the new academic year.

As you will understand, it is very difficult for us to confirm arrangements for the new academic year considering Covid. Whilst we expect that year group bubbles will not be in place, we await full confirmation of Government guidance and will update you of arrangements. **Unless we are required to change our plans, the start of the year will be a staggered one with mass on-site testing before students return to school. Details about this will follow next week.**

We close on **Thursday 22 July at 12.30 pm** for the Summer holidays. For those families who are eligible for free school meals, an e-voucher will be sent via e-mail that can be used during the school holidays.

Details of our Summer programme of home learning for students in KS3 and KS4 are in the student TEAMS area and on our website. Home learning can be found by following the link to [students Summer learning 2021](#).

Thank you for your support and kind words over the year. We hope you have a lovely Summer and that you and your families stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Alison Merrills
Principal

Principal: Alison Merrills

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