

23rd October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy but rewarding half term, I would like to thank you all for your continued support of the school and staff. Your partnership in your child's education is invaluable, and it truly makes a difference to their growth and development. Below are some key messages and dates for next half term.

### **Behaviour, Attendance and Punctuality**

We are very pleased to report that attendance across school has improved this term. We recognise the importance of great attendance and the positive link between attendance in school and student attainment. Those students with 96%+ attendance in Year 11 last year performed on average 2 grades higher than their peers at GCSE. A key ingredient in ensuring attendance remains really strong is a supportive parent body who recognises and champions attendance at school. We are really grateful for your efforts so far. Please continue to encourage children to attend every day, particularly as we enter the cold, dark winter months. It is fine to come into school with minor ailments such as coughs and colds; we do not have a 24hr or 48hr rule around sickness bugs. Regular attendance is a vital component of school success at Jarrow School; when students are present, engaged and involved they have the greatest opportunity to learn. When children attend school consistently they are not only more likely to do well academically, but also build strong relationships and feel connected with our school community. A key area of focus this year for us is attendance. Our target for all students is 95%. We will be in touch with you to support and challenge if your child is missing from school at the earliest opportunity.

### **Please be aware of the following expectations:**

- School starts at 8.40am. All students are expected to be in form class by then. Students who attend after 8.40am will receive a consequence.
- Mobile phones must be turned off and in bags as soon as students enter the school site. The mobile phone policy can be found [here](#).
- Additionally, after half term, we will be adopting the same approach to jewellery as we do to mobile phones. **Jewellery, other than a wristwatch, is not permitted** and must be removed before entering the school building.
- We have updated our [Behaviour for Learning Policy](#). This has been approved by governors and available on the school website.

### **Mock Exams**

Year 11 formal mock examinations will take place the w/b 25<sup>th</sup> November and will last for approximately 2 weeks. Individual timetables are available in the MCAS app. It is crucial that students take mock exams seriously and as a first key test of how they are doing in relation to targets. Please encourage your child to revise frequently in preparation, as these results will be used to predict final grades. Students can revise using [Seneca](#) and further resources are available on [Teams](#). (Students log in to Teams using their full @myjarrowschool.com email address and the same password they use in school)

### **Parental Feedback**

We would appreciate it if you could take the time to complete [this survey](#). Your feedback is essential to help us improve our school and provide the best possible education for your child.

## Points of contact

You can contact your child's Head of Year if you have any pastoral issues, please see contact details below. If you have an academic concern then please contact [info@jarrowschool.com](mailto:info@jarrowschool.com) and your child's teacher or Curriculum Leader will be able to support you.

Year Group	Head of Year	Email
Year 7	Mr Whitley	<a href="mailto:nwhitley@jarrowschool.com">nwhitley@jarrowschool.com</a>
Year 8	Miss Coutts	<a href="mailto:ccoutts@jarrowschool.com">ccoutts@jarrowschool.com</a>
Year 9	Mrs Elgood	<a href="mailto:aelgood@jarrowschool.com">aelgood@jarrowschool.com</a>
Year 10	Mr Hannah	<a href="mailto:shannah@jarrowschool.com">shannah@jarrowschool.com</a>
Year 11	Mr Connolly	<a href="mailto:mconnolly@jarrowschool.com">mconnolly@jarrowschool.com</a>

## MyChildAtSchool

Please ensure you have downloaded and logged into our parental communication app and have notifications turned on. MyChildAtSchool is available in [Google Play](#) and the [Apple App Store](#). We use this app to share behaviour and attendance information as well as your child's school reports and timetable. If you have any issues logging in, or need to update your details, please email [MCAS@jarrowschool.com](mailto:MCAS@jarrowschool.com).

## Extra-Curricular Activities

It has been encouraging to see so many students staying behind after school to take advantage of our vast array of extra-curricular clubs. We would encourage all students to try and attend at least 1 activity per week. With so many different options available from the traditional music and sporting activities to the more bespoke pool and VR clubs, there is something for everyone. The full extra-curricular programme can be [found on our website](#).

## Key dates

- **Training Day (school closed for students): Friday 25 October**
- **October half term: week beginning 28 October**
- **Monday 4 November School re-opens to all students**
- **Year 11 Mock Exams: 2 weeks starting 25th November**
- **Last day of Autumn 2023 term: Thursday 19 December**

Yours faithfully



Mr P Atkinson  
Headteacher