

19 November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a busy start to the half term with much to celebrate. Students have enjoyed an excellent first couple of weeks back in school and have shown enthusiasm across the curriculum. All year groups participated in a celebration assembly where students were recognized for their attendance, attainment, progress, and for demonstrating the BRIGHT values: **Brave, Respectful, Independent, Generous, Hardworking, and Thriving**. It was fantastic to see so many students receiving recognition for their achievements. Recent visitors to the school have echoed these values and commented on the calm and purposeful atmosphere both inside and outside the classroom. It is important that we continue to embody these values every day. Success assemblies will now be held at the start of every half term to raise aspirations and expectations further.

Below are some key updates and messages:

### Remembrance assembly

On Monday 11 November, the whole school came together to commemorate Remembrance Day. The service focused on the story of young Harry Brennan of Field Terrace, who tragically lost his life just a week after arriving in France in 1918. Students from the Performing Arts department brought Harry's story to life through poems, letters, and footage from the Great War. Sarah Collins delivered a beautiful rendition of Joni Mitchell's *Both Sides Now* to an audience so attentive you could hear a pin drop. A minute's silence was immaculately led by cadets representing the Royal Navy, Army, and Police Service.

We were joined by guests, including governors, parents, and our former headteacher, Miss Gillies. It felt significant to have the school community together in quiet reflection, taking a moment to pause and think about the stories and messages we'd heard. We are fortunate to be part of a community that not only values **independence** but also understands the power of working together. We see our students supporting one another daily - cheering each other on and lending a hand when it's needed. This spirit of **hard work** and **generosity**, alongside determination to achieve their personal best, gives us confidence they will **thrive** in the future.

### Anti-Bullying Week – Choose Respect

Last week, we celebrated Anti-Bullying Week, with the theme Choose **Respect**, which is one of our school's core values. Students participated in several activities to raise awareness about bullying and encourage respect in school, the local community, and online. Many staff and students joined the national *Odd Socks Day* on Tuesday 12 November, and a prize was awarded to the student with the most creative odd socks.

The whole school engaged in an anti-bullying quiz during their SMC lessons and contributed to a school-wide word collage on the theme of **Respect**. Students were invited to enter a creative competition based on **respect**, with the winner receiving a One4All gift voucher. Teachers also nominated students who are **respectful** and positive role models, celebrating them in an anti-bullying-themed assembly.

## Year 10/11 Careers Fair

On Tuesday, 12th November, all Year 10 and 11 students, parents, and carers were invited to our annual careers fair. It was an extremely positive evening, supported by 23 local employers and providers representing colleges, sixth forms, universities, as well as training and apprenticeship providers. Attendees also had the opportunity to receive personalized advice and guidance from Connexions.

The evening offered meaningful opportunities for students to discuss their future aspirations and explore their next steps within the local labour market, particularly in the emerging industries in the North East of England. Feedback from the providers was highly complementary, with many praising our students for their enthusiasm and level of interest.

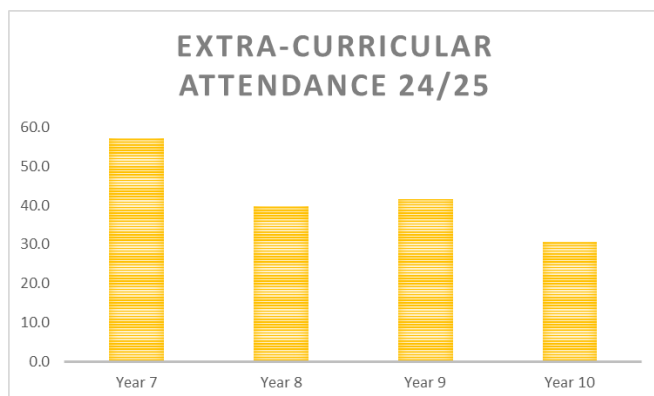
If you would like to learn more about our careers education provision, please visit the [careers education page](#) on the school website.

## Extra-Curricular Programme

It has been great to see so many students attending our after-school clubs. Year 7 currently leads the way, with almost 60% regularly participating in at least one after-school activity each week.

We have worked hard to create an extra-curricular programme that offers something for everyone. From traditional sports to unique options like pool club and VR club, there is truly something for everyone. There is even talk of a darts club starting soon. These activities provide a wonderful opportunity for students to socialize in a relaxed environment, engage in activities they enjoy, or try something new.

For a full list of the activities available, please visit the Jarrow School website at: <https://www.jarrowschool.com/site/index.php/curriculum/extra-curricular-activities>.

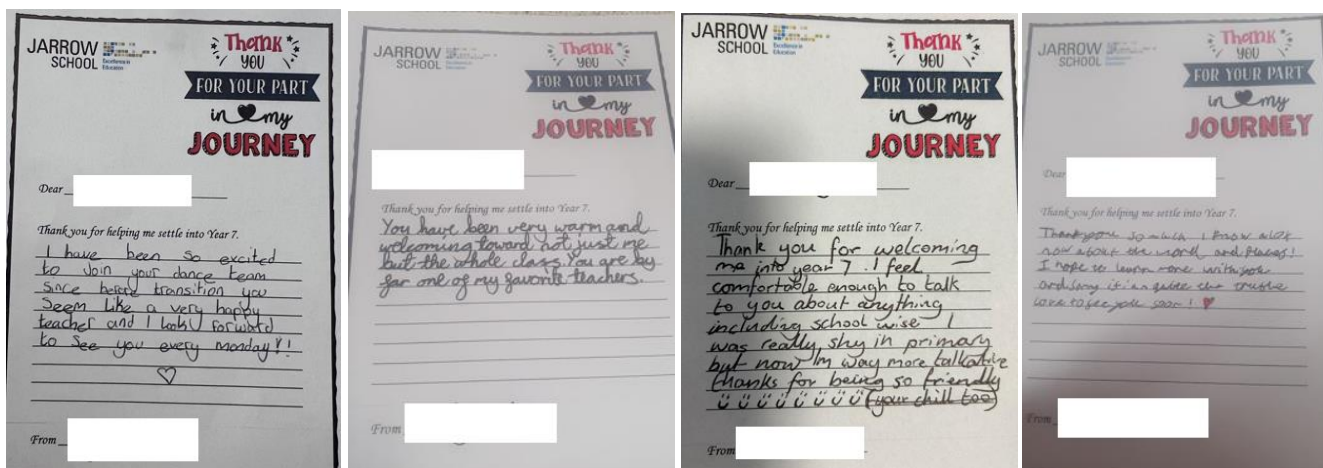


## Year 7 Academic Review Days

The transition from primary to secondary school can be stressful, not only for students but also for parents/carers. Last week, approximately 70% of Year 7 parents attended meetings with senior staff to discuss their child's adjustment to life at Jarrow School and address any concerns. The event was a great success, with parents noting how quickly their children have settled into the school community. Thank you to all who attended and for your positive feedback.

## Year 7 Thank You Notes

Before the half-term holidays, Year 7 students wrote thank-you notes to their teachers, acknowledging their support during the transition from primary school. These notes, left in teachers' pigeonholes as a surprise, were greatly appreciated and highlighted the strong sense of community within the school.



## BRIGHT Points

At Jarrow School, we celebrate students' achievements through BRIGHT points, rewarding them for being Brave, Respectful, Independent, Generous, Hardworking, and Thriving. This year, staff have issued over 2,000 more BRIGHT points compared to the same time last year.

|             | 7    | 8    | 9    | 10   | 11   | All Years |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Brave       | 307  | 227  | 109  | 50   | 15   | 708       |
| Respectful  | 186  | 26   | 172  | 88   | 37   | 509       |
| Independent | 769  | 576  | 856  | 320  | 517  | 3038      |
| Generous    | 195  | 113  | 112  | 19   | 39   | 478       |
| Hardworking | 1235 | 895  | 830  | 800  | 522  | 4282      |
| Thriving    | 557  | 258  | 248  | 83   | 65   | 121       |
| Total       | 3249 | 2095 | 2327 | 1360 | 1195 | 10226     |

## Year 11 Mock Exams

Year 11 formal mock examinations will take place the w/b 25<sup>th</sup> November and will last for approximately two weeks. **Your child should now be revising regularly at home.** Mock examination results will be shared with students in the last week of term. Further information regarding revision techniques and key dates can be found in the Year 11 Parents' Presentation <https://bit.ly/3XYcQTG>.

## Attendance

Attendance remains a key focus at Jarrow School, as it lays the foundation for consistent learning and personal growth. Assemblies have emphasized the importance of regular attendance and its direct correlation with achievement. While our attendance data shows improvement, **daily attendance is essential for the rest of the term.**

We will celebrate and reward good and improved attendance during the final week of term. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please contact their Head of Year or our attendance team.



## Reminders:

- **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](#).
- **Jewellery, other than a wristwatch, is not permitted** and must be removed before entering the school building.
- We updated our [Behaviour for Learning Policy](#) before half term.

## Key dates

- Year 11 Mock Exams: 2 weeks starting **25 November 2024**
- Year 10 Interim Report – **w/c 18 November 2024**
- Flu Vaccinations (All Year Groups) – **Monday 2 December 2024**
- Year 11 Mock Results – **w/b Monday 16 December 2024**
- Year 11 Parents' Evening – **Thursday 16 January 2025**
- Last day of Autumn 2023 term: **Thursday 19 December 2024**
- Students return to school **Monday 6 January 2025**

Yours faithfully



Mr P Atkinson  
Headteacher