

31 January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. Students have made a fantastic start to the term. They are working hard in their lessons, demonstrating a growing sense of independence, and truly thriving in their learning and personal development. Their commitment and enthusiasm are a credit to themselves, their families, and our school community.

So far this term, we have seen a significant and positive shift in attendance rates and punctuality (Less than 3% of students are now late to school). This improvement is a direct result of your commitment to reinforcing the importance of being in school, on time, and ready to learn. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and we truly appreciate the role you play in helping your child succeed. Year 7 students continue to amaze us with their positive attitude to school, their attendance being the standout figure across all year groups at 95.3%. Across all year groups there are currently 132 students who have never missed a school session this academic year and 436 students whose attendance is above 95%. This is a fantastic achievement.

Regular attendance and punctuality are crucial to your child's academic progress, social development, and overall well-being. By ensuring they are present and on time, you are setting them up for success, not only in their studies but also in their future endeavours.

We understand that maintaining this commitment can sometimes be challenging, and we are incredibly grateful for the sacrifices and efforts you make to prioritise your child's education. Your partnership with the school is invaluable, and together, we can continue to foster a positive and productive learning environment for all our students.

Some things to remember ...

- If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school as soon as possible to let us know the reason why.
- Avoiding school can make a child's anxiety about going to school worse. It's good to talk to us about this anxiety and allow us to help.
- It is fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold.
- Your child is no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if they have symptoms. But if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test.

Road Safety – PA

Ensuring the safety of our students during drop-off and pick-up times is of utmost importance to us. To maintain a safe and orderly environment, we kindly ask for your continued support and cooperation.

Please ensure that you:

- Park in a safe and designated area.
- Avoid stopping in the middle of the road or in areas that obstruct traffic.
- Follow any directions provided by school staff or signage to help keep everyone safe.

By working together, we can create a safer and more efficient process for all students, parents, and members of our school community. Your cooperation helps prevent accidents and ensures a smoother flow of traffic around the school.

My Child At School

From 28th April 2025 will be transitioning to the My Child At School App (MCAS) as our primary method of communication. MCAS will become the sole platform for all school announcements and key information.

To ensure a smooth transition, we will begin phasing in the use of MCAS from 20th January 2025 to 11th April 2025. During this period, all school-related information, including announcements and updates, will be gradually transferred to the app. This will give everyone the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the system before it becomes our main communication tool. Follow the link below to view the letter and parent guide:

- [My Child At School App \(MCAS\) Letter and Guide](#)

Year 9 Options

This week is the launch of the Y9 options process. Below are the key dates with some information:

- **Thursday 30th January** – Options launch assembly.
- **WC 3rd February** – Staff will deliver key information about the option choice(s) within their curriculum area during normal timetabled lessons. Students receive their options information booklet.
- **Wednesday 12th February**– Options evening. This is a chance for parents to speak to staff about the variety of options available to students as they transition into KS4.
- **WC 3rd March** – Students will be given time in Computing lessons to complete and submit their options form should they require this.
- **Friday 7th March** – Options deadline

Y10 Work Experience

We have had a great response from students since the launch of this year's work experience program with many students now having secured a placement, or if not, at least having made initial contact with a prospective placement. If your child is yet to make contact, then please continue to encourage them to do so as we approach the first deadline at the end of this half-term. Many thanks to those of you who attended the work experience information session on Wednesday 29th January, we hope it has allowed you to better understand the importance of this week and enables you to support you child in securing a meaningful placement.

Y11 Guidance Meetings

Over two thirds of our Y11 students have had at least one guidance meeting with Miss Ridley, our Careers Adviser. The discussions that have taken place have been very positive and it is exciting to hear about the aspirations of our students. Please discuss this with your child so they can share their action plans with you that will inform their next steps. The guidance meetings are continuing, and should your child have not had theirs yet, they will be informed very soon ad they will be scheduled to take place before the end of this half-term.

Extra-Curricular Programme

Students continue to enjoy the many after-school clubs that are on offer for them to attend. Mr Anderson's darts club finally opened its doors to staff and students just before the Christmas break and held a festive competition to mark this occasion. Daniel Rowe (KS4) and Peyton Skinner (KS3) were the student winners with Mr Connolly taking the staff prize.

Our Extra-Curricular programme provides a wonderful opportunity for students to socialize in a relaxed environment, engage in activities they enjoy, or try something new. If they do not already do so, then please encourage your child to find something of interest to them and give it a try.

For a full list of the activities available, please visit the Jarrow School website at:

- [Jarrow School Extra Curricular Activities](#)

Year 11 Key Information

Controlled Assessments are ongoing throughout this term attendance is vital. Intervention is now underway; students will be informed which lessons they need to attend. The key focus for students' next steps continues to be English & maths. Intervention is on a Thursday and Tuesday respectively. The next wave of prom invites will be at the end of this half-term.

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](#) in December 2024.

Key dates

- Year 9 Parents' Evening – **Wednesday 5 February 2025**
- Year 9 Parents' Options Evening – **Wednesday 12 February 2025**
- Half term: **w/c 24 February 2025**
- Students return to school **Monday 3 March 2025**
- Year 11 Mock Exams – **w/c 31 March 2025** (Controlled Assessments are ongoing this term)
- Year 10 Parents' Evening – **Thursday 3 April 2025**

Yours faithfully



Mr P Atkinson
Headteacher