



Nether Stowe School

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Tuesday 5th April

April 2022 Parental Update

Dear parent or carer,

I hope you are well. It has certainly been a busy and demanding term with lots to celebrate.

Congratulations to the Nether Stowe Public speaking team who were recently victorious in the prestigious [Lichfield Schools Speaking Competition](#), held in March. The school team won the overall prize as well as the coveted 'best speaker' award. A huge well done to the team who performed brilliantly.

It has also been a term to celebrate sporting success. The Year 7 boys basketball team entered – and won – their first tournament, setting a high standard for their future competitions. The Year 8 and Year 9 girls netball teams have also performed brilliantly in a number of tournaments, reflecting the excellent progress they are making.

Equally impressive was the range of fancy dress on display for the College cross-country competition in March. Some pupils raised an impressive amount of money for the nominated charities, and it was an amazing team effort from pupils and staff.

We have been thrilled to welcome into school a number of our partner primary schools and Year 5 pupils over this term who have enjoyed a range of challenges and subject experiences at Nether Stowe. Our Year 7 cohort for September 2022 is full to capacity and beyond and it's great to see so many younger pupils enthused and engaged by their time with us in school.

Excitingly, we have also launched [World Challenge](#) and pupils have already started to prepare for their expedition to Nepal next year.

Importantly, we continue to prioritise the well-being of our pupils. Our 'cake and chat' event was highly successful, and our new Mental Health and Well-Being lead starts their post after the Easter break – please look out for updates outlining the events and support taking place in school.

End of Term

As a reminder, school closes for Easter, at the normal time, on **Thursday 7th April** and reopens to all pupils on **Monday 25th April**. The May Day Bank Holiday, when school will also be closed, is **Monday 2nd May**.

Attendance

As you will be aware, post-pandemic, good attendance has, rightly, been a school and national focus. There is a wealth of information and research available making an irrefutable link between 'good' attendance and good progress and outcomes for students.

What does 'good' attendance mean? It means attendance of at least 95% - or significantly improving - attendance. A student with 95% attendance would have 9 days absence over the course of a year. 90% attendance is classed as 'persistently absent', the equivalent to 19 days of absence in a school year.

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We have made great progress this year – and your support is much appreciated – however, we can do much better.

To put it simply: **every** lesson matters and **every** day at school matters.

We will continue to support, empathise and listen but we will not tolerate absence from school: please expect to be routinely and repeatedly challenged if your child is not in school. If you need to access further support, please contact your child's form tutor, College Head or Pastoral Lead.

Teaching and Learning

We have had a number of external visitors in lessons, reviewing and evaluating the work of our students and speaking to students and staff. They have all commented on the consistently high-quality learning experience afforded to our students. They recognise the strength of our lesson framework and how well our students understand it and use it. We continue to strive to 'Be the best we can be' and will be focusing every lesson on learner independence and resilience; more information will be shared via the school website next term.

Uniform

We are exceptionally proud of our high standards of uniform. Pupils are checked and supported as they come into school every morning. Please refer to the school website if you are unsure of any of our uniform expectations. Support and assistance with uniform is available if you need it and further information is available via your child's College Head or Pastoral Lead. Your support in helping us to maintain our high standards is greatly appreciated.

Ukraine Appeal

Thank you for your incredible support for our ATLP Ukraine appeal. The response was excellent, and every donation will help to make a difference at a very difficult time.

Extra-Curricular Activities

You will hopefully be aware that extra-curricular activities are scheduled every Wednesday after-school until 4pm. The 'menu' of activities is available via the students' menu on the website and will be updated for the final term, on Monday 25th April.

Enrichment Days – July 2022.

At the start of next term, will be excited to share our plans for our enrichment days which take place in July. There will be range of in-school and external activities to choose from. Look out for the information straight after the Easter holiday.

I wish you restful and enjoyable break.

Yours faithfully,

Mr G Langston-Jones
Headteacher

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