

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Thank you for your support over the last term. A 15 week term has certainly been a first in my very long career as a teacher and it is fair to say that many students and staff are looking a little tired and ready for their Christmas break! On that note **important information for Friday 22 December – the academy will start dismissing students from 2:00pm on Friday; students will return on Monday 8 January 2024 by 8.30am, ready for learning at 8.40am.**

It has been an incredibly busy and productive term with numerous events including The Mercians (band) delivering on mental health awareness; water safety workshops; university ambassador events both on site and at Durham and Teesside University focusing on Physics and Maths; and Year 10 mock interviews in preparation for their work experience next year.

Fundraising, awareness raising and celebration events including PJ day for 'Children in Need' at post 16; Christmas Jumper Day for 'Save the Children' for all year groups with the highest participation rate in our history; Hart Gables presentations; Nunthorpe's Got Talent and our termly Governors' Awards Evening. The generosity of time and energy and the talent demonstrated by our students in Nunthorpe's Got Talent was phenomenal and it gave immense pleasure to invite the winners to perform at the celebration event on Monday to showcase their talent. The positivity of the staff speeches presented to winning students reminds us all of why we do the job that we do day in day out.

Visits to celebrate the Lionesses Tour success and watch a game against Scotland; Year 9 River Tees and High Force Geography field trip to provide opportunities to students to put theory into practice and appreciate a natural wonder; Maths Christmas lecture; Physics Christmas lecture plus 360 students attending a rewards Christmas shopping trip to the Metro Centre.

Images to support the above can be found in the gallery section on our website <https://www.nunthorpe.co.uk/photo-galleries/> images are far better than my words!

A huge thank you and congratulations to everyone who contributed to our CAUSE Christmas Hamper campaign this year. We were overwhelmed by the quantity and quality of the donations and we were easily able to complete our ten allocated hampers; each hamper will go to a family in the Teesside area who would otherwise struggle to celebrate Christmas. Each family received 6-7 large bags packed full of essential food supplies, Christmas treats and gifts. The remaining food and gifts were donated to another local charity, Fairshare, based in Acklam. A further 8 families received some basic foods and Christmas gifts, which is absolutely incredible and shows exactly what Nunthorpe can achieve when we work together.

Thank you to Vision for Education for their kindness and generosity. They asked us how they could help and support some students that needed it at Christmas time. We nominated two of our families to receive help and requested food hampers to support them. Vision not only supplied the food hampers, they also provided presents for every member of the household, including the parents and younger/older siblings who don't attend our Academy. This will certainly help out and relieve some pressure for those families this Christmas.

Key events next half term (we return on a timetable week 2):

- 08.01.24 Return to the Academy
- Year 11 Sixth Form interview process begins
- Year 13 Trial Exam period begins

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- 09.01.24 Year 9 Parental Review Evening (invites shared)
- 16.01.24 Year 9 Options Evening and Careers Evening
- 22.02.24 Year 11 Trial speaking exams start
- 26.01.24 Drama and Music GCSE and A Level Theatre trip 'The Life of Pi'
- 30.01.24 Year 11 Parental Review Evening (invites to be shared)
- 06.02.24 Year 12 and 13 Parental Review Evening (invites to be shared)
- 09.02.24 PD Day – the Academy is closed to students – students start half term and return on 19.02.24

In addition we have some exciting residential visits coming up to Malaga (02.02.23) and London in the New Year.

All that remains for me to say is, 'stay safe', this holiday period. Please read the attached on-line safety newsletter in preparation for all of those new devices shared this Christmas.

Have a peaceful Christmas and I wish you all the best for the New Year!

Take care

Kate Kell

Head of School

Online Safety Newsletter

Autumn 2023

Does your child watch livestreams?

What is livestreaming?

Livestreaming is when an individual broadcasts video live over the internet. People can watch livestreams from any device that is connected to the internet.



Who is watching livestreaming?

Research from Ofcom reported that 57% of 3 - 17 year olds have watched live streams and the most used platforms to watch live streams were YouTube and TikTok. The research also showed that the percentage watching content on livestreaming app/sites increased by age. A third of 3 - 4 year olds were watching live content with this number growing to eight in ten of 16 - 17 year olds. This is reported in Children and parents: media use and attitudes report 2022 (Ofcom.org.uk).

What are the risks?

There are risks associated with watching livestreams that you should be aware of. The main risk being that your child may see or hear something inappropriate as your child may come across themes or content that is not suitable for them. It is difficult to moderate live content as it is happening in real time.

How can I help my child?

All online platforms have an age rating, ensure your child only accesses platforms that are appropriate to their age. For example, TikTok has an age rating of 13.

For any platforms that your child uses, ensure appropriate parental controls and privacy settings are applied.

Take an interest in what your child is doing online and on a regular basis, ask your child to show you what they are accessing.

Ensure your child knows how to use any reporting/blocking tools on the app that they are using and as always please ensure that your child knows to talk to a trusted adult if they see anything that concerns them online.

Further information

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/livestreaming-parents/>
<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-live-streaming/>

Broadband set up

Have you set up appropriate settings on your broadband/Wi-Fi? Most broadband providers include parental controls for free as part of their broadband package, which means that any device that connects to your Wi-Fi will be protected by any controls you set up. Find out how to set yours up here.

Sky:

<https://www.sky.com/help/articles/sky-broadband-shield-start>

BT:

<http://www.bt.com/help/security/how-to-keep-your-family-safe-online-with-bt-parental-controls-an>

Talk Talk:

<http://community.talktalk.co.uk/t5/Keeping-your-Family-Safe/bd-p/kfshub>

Virgin:

<https://www.virginmedia.com/help/broadband/web-safe>

Test Your Internet Filter

SWGfl have created a tool to test your filtering to give you an indication that your broadband is blocking certain categories. Access it here: <http://testfiltering.com/>

Remember, children may have devices that use mobile data, so they won't always be connected to your wireless. Ensure you set up parental controls on these devices too.

Further information:

<https://www.safeinternet.org.uk/>

