



'RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY EXCELLENCE'

NEWRY HIGH SCHOOL

15 January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you regarding an important change to our Parents' Afternoon arrangements.

As you will be aware ongoing industrial action by the teaching unions across Northern Ireland has had an impact on activities that would normally take place outside the school day e.g. parents' afternoons. Like other schools we have been looking at how we can ensure there is an opportunity for parents to meet with the staff who teach their children to discuss and support their progress.

Therefore, the remaining two parents' afternoons will now run from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm On these days we will end the day early at 12.25 pm The school buses will be organised for this time. A supervised room will be available from 12.25 pm – 3.00 pm for any pupils unable to make arrangements to get home. However, the school canteen will not be open therefore students will have to have a bring packed lunch.

To confirm:

- **Year 8 and Year 13 parents' afternoon Thursday 25th January 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm school finishes at 12.25 pm**
- **Year 10 and Year 11 parents' afternoon Tuesday 27th February 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm school finishes at 12.25 pm** * Please note the date change from the original calendar

There will be an additional Year 10 options information session for pupils and parents at 12.25 pm on Tuesday 27th February in the Lecture Theatre.

Subject teachers will have detailed information about your child's progress and how you can support your child in helping them to achieve their potential. It would also be useful if your son/daughter could attend with you. I am sorry for any inconvenience these arrangements may cause.

I would also like to take the opportunity to remind you of some key information:

Free School Meals

I strongly encourage parents whose child may be entitled to free school meals and a uniform grant to apply and access their entitlement. Free school meals amount to approximately £500 over the course of a year plus the uniform grant. Additionally, school receives a much needed additional contribution for every pupil accessing free school meals. Neither you nor the school can access this money unless you apply.

School Reports

As all years completed examinations before the Christmas break, you should receive a report by mid-January for your son/daughter. I would ask you to read through these reports and if you have any concerns please let us know.

School Attendance

I would also ask you to continue to support us in encouraging excellent attendance at school. At present the whole school attendance is slightly below the high target that the school has set itself. Sustained and regular attendance at school is one of the important ways that a young person will succeed in their studies and work. Even to miss one day a week over a three-week period can have profound effect on their learning.

Contact details

If any of your or your child's contact details have changed since September 2017, can you please inform the school office so that the information that we hold in order to make contact with you is as accurate and up to date as possible.

Finally, I have enclosed an amended school calendar for your information and I would like to take this opportunity at the beginning of a New Year and a new school term, to wish you all a happy and successful 2018.

Your sincerely

Mr. I Brown
Principal