

September, 2011

Dear Parent,

I hope that you had a good summer with your families.

I am delighted to welcome all the new pupils to the school.

I would like to welcome the following new Staff to the school:

- i) Mr Proctor – Acting Head of Music during Mrs Hawthorne's Maternity Leave.
- ii) Miss Watt – Part Time Temporary Teacher of Science

The following staff have also been appointed to new positions of responsibility:

- i) Mrs Gordon is now our Head of Maths/Numeracy Co-ordinator following the retirement of Mr Mooney
- ii) Miss Girvan is Acting Head of Year 12 during Mrs Hawthorne's Maternity Leave

Mrs O'Neill remains with us to cover Mrs McCarroll's Maternity Leave.

Mr Houston continues to be Vice-Principal with responsibility for Key Stage 3 (Years 8, 9 and 10) and Mr Brown continues to be Vice-Principal with responsibility for Key Stages 4 and 5 (Years 11-14).

Raising Standards

I would now like to ask for your help in our drive to raise standards further. Please can I ask you to ensure that your child does not wear jewellery or trainers to school. We are also going to be having a further drive on attendance and punctuality. We need your support in not condoning any absence which is not essential. This also applies to punctuality. We will not be accepting notes or phone calls excusing lateness unless it is for a genuine reason such as a doctor's appointment, and ask that these are done outside school where at all possible. Our agenda is one of school improvement leading to academic success and punctuality and attendance are vital elements in this pursuit.

Examination Results

Newry High School pupils achieved excellent results in this year's Key Stage 3, GCSE and A Level Examinations – results of which they and their teachers can feel very proud.

A Level

79% of students achieved A* - C grades at A2 level and 99% of students achieved A* - E grades. In Art and Design and English Literature there were 100% A* - C grades. Top achieving students were Kirsty Auterson, Andrew Baird, Kathryn Baird, Karen Bickerstaff, Victoria Brady, Emma Chambers, Brian Davidson, Emma Ferris, Sonu Gurung, Rebekah Malcomson, Aaron Marks, Ruth McMinn, Julia Sokele, Paul Taylor, Rebecca Taylor and Alex Sawicka.

51% of students achieved 3 or more A*-C

81% of students achieved 3 or more A*-E

100% of students achieved 2 or more A*-E and 100% achieved 1 or more A*-E grades.

These performances are all up on last year and the year before. Well done to all our students.

AS Level

AS results were also encouraging, with excellent efforts made on the part of many students.

GCSE

65% of pupils gained A*-C grades, an increase of 6% on last year. 98.7% of pupils obtained GCSE grades at A*-G compared to 96.2% last year. When English and Maths are included in the figures, the percentage of pupils achieving five or more A*-C grades rose by 7% on last year to 36%. 31% of students achieved 7 or more A*-C grades, including English and Mathematics.

Over 80% A*-C grades were achieved in Biology, Physics, Information Technology, History, English Literature, French and Music. Biology had 95.8% A*-C and Physics achieved 91.7%.

Top achieving pupils were Jane Bingham, Conor Fullerton, Claire Gamble, Jonathan Gray, Megan Hanna, Stephen Harvey, Lauren Henning, Katherine Holmes, Brianna Johnston, Sarah Kernaghan, Kathryn McCrum and Taja McIlroy.

Key Stage 3

In English, 75.3% of pupils achieved Level 5 and above, which is an increase on last year. 22% achieved Level 6 and above.

In Maths, 64.4% of pupils achieved Level 5 and above in the tests and 35.6% achieved Level 6 and above.

Revision of the Behaviour System 2011-2012

Last September we wrote to you regarding the ongoing responsibility and partnership between parents and the school in regard to high standards of behaviour being one of the essential foundations on which students' successes are built.

Building on the work we began last September, we would like to highlight some of the decisions made in regard to the after school detention system. Although it is our sincerest desire that no pupil should have to attend detention, we acknowledge that it is at times a necessary part of our pastoral care system.

I would specifically draw your attention to the following new arrangements:

After School Detention will take place on Thursdays.

A pupil will not be permitted to miss detention unless a prior arrangement has been made in writing with a Vice Principal or the Principal.

Work in detention:

- The punishment is the time after school. It will be the pupil's responsibility to bring some useful work with them to do.
- If a pupil does not bring work, they will be expected to complete some standard work which will be provided in the detention room e.g. rethinking my behaviour.
- The Teacher who requests the detention may provide specific work which will take precedence over any work the pupil may bring themselves.

We will again this year be promoting our 'Code of Conduct and Appearance' a statement of positive behaviours and we encourage and expect all pupils to adhere to as we prepare them for further education and employment founded on three principles – **'Respect, Responsibility and Excellence.'**

During the coming Autumn term we will be consulting with parents regarding changes to school rules and the pastoral care policy. In the meantime, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support in our efforts to prepare the pupils of Newry High for their futures.

School Calendar

A final version of the school calendar for this term is enclosed for your information.

I look forward to working with you this year and thank you for your help and support. We are happy to meet with you if you have any queries or concerns. However, I must point out that staff are not available to meet with parents without an appointment due to their teaching and other commitments so please phone the school first to make an appointment.

From now on my letters home to you will be sent via your son/daughter.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Pride
Principal

Enc: Newry High School Code of Conduct
School Calendar – Autumn Term, 2011

