

Date: 17/10/2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you well and that your child/children have enjoyed their first half term at school. Although I'm sure they (and you) are ready for the half term break.

Headteachers from across the Trust inform me that pupils have made a very good start to the new school year and on my recent visits to the schools, I can certainly see that this is the case. It is now vital that we keep up this momentum and ensure a high-quality education for all.

Trust Wide Standards and Expectations

It should come as no surprise to you that we will take every opportunity we can to promote and remind parents, carers and pupils of the exceptionally high standards we have at Northern Ambition Academies Trust. We will achieve these high standards through a relentless focus, from each and every one of us, on insisting on exceptionally high expectations both in and out of the classroom. We make no excuses and expect the same commitment to these standards from all Trust staff. A clear message has been given to our staff and to our pupils, that both are responsible for keeping standards and expectations high in our schools. It is a mutual responsibility and key to the success of every single young person educated within our Trust. Parents and carers can support with this by continuing to send your child to school every day, equip them so they are ready to learn and encourage them to do their very best.

We make no apologies for insisting on positive behaviour from each and every child. All staff want nothing more than to see the children succeed and enjoy their time at school. However, on occasion, sanctioning a child for poor behaviour is required and in order to allow other children to enjoy their education in a positive learning environment, we make this clear to families and pupils as they begin their education with us.

➤ **Attendance**

Attendance to school has now become a national concern. At Northern Ambition Academies Trust, we recognise that improving attendance to school is everyone's business but we continue to experience levels of pupil absence which is far too high. We are already seeing too many pupils missing school since the beginning of the autumn term, many without reason.

Although we strive to successfully treat the root cause of absence and ensure that we do all we can to remove barriers to attendance, we cannot do that without your support. It is essential that we work together. We have recently updated our attendance policy for the Trust which has been shared with you by your schools, in order for you to read and understand it, and is also available on all school websites. The policy clearly outlines how we aim to work with you to improve attendance levels. If you have difficulties in accessing this policy, please let your school know.

Pupils in all of our schools are being reminded of the benefits of good attendance at every opportunity and our schools will continue to celebrate and reward those who attend every day and have recently launched our Trust attendance rewards programme, *"We are more than a school"*.

Staff across our Trust know exactly what is needed to ensure pupils make up for lost time and all schools have comprehensive plans in place to do so, but they cannot support pupils with this if they are absent. I therefore ask that you ensure your child/children are in school every day in order to make the most of the education on offer. If you are experiencing problems which are impacting on your child's attendance to school, please contact the school and we will work with you to resolve this.

➤ **Uniform**

Each school has a clear, consistent policy around school uniform. We aim to instil high standards in our very youngest children in order to prepare them, the best we can, for their journey through education and ultimately, within the world of work. Your child's school will have a very clear uniform policy and we would ask that you remind yourself of this to ensure that your child has the correct uniform every day, including a school bag and equipment.

➤ **Our Values**

Each school shares the Trust Values of Ambition, Bravery and Respect. These values weave their way throughout everything we do allowing us to frequently remind children of our expectations around behaviour and the culture created within our schools. I am delighted to see that the vast majority of our pupils behave impeccably, love their learning and display the Trust values each and every day. Thank you for your ongoing support in reinforcing this at home. If you would like to see more about how we include our values into our curriculum, please look at the Trust and/or school websites to see our promotional films. You will find our Trust page at <https://www.northernambition.org.uk/>

Northern Ambition Academies Trust – Parent/Carer Forum

In order to enable parents/carers to have a voice in the development and improvement of the Trust and its' schools, I am very keen to grow our parent/carers forum further. To date we have held a number of meetings where we have discussed a whole range of issues from uniform to attendance and I would like to thank those parents and carers who are involved. If you are interested in becoming part of this forum, please contact IParkinson@northernambition.org.uk.

I look forward to working with your children over the course of the academic year and to meeting many of you at various events taking place in our schools. In the meantime, please do enjoy the half term break when it arrives.

Yours faithfully,

Elizabeth Fairhurst

Chief Executive

Northern Ambition Academies Trust