

Date: 24/09/2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you all well and that you have enjoyed the summer months.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for ensuring your child/children have come back to school looking smart and ready to learn. It is an absolute pleasure to welcome them back and to be operating as normal. You received information from your child's school prior to the start of term, informing you of what Covid19 safety measures will remain in place for the foreseeable future, and we will of course keep you up to date with this as the academic year progresses. Needless to say, we will continue to do all we can to keep pupils and staff safe.

Headteachers across the Trust inform me that pupils have made a great 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 this momentum and ensure a high-quality education for all.

#### **Trust Wide Standards and Expectations**

It is important for our Trust that we promote and remind parents, carers and pupils of the exceptionally high standards we have at Northern Ambition Academies Trust. We will achieve 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.

##### **➤ Attendance**

We need your help with this. I have given a clear message 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, equip them so they are ready to learn and encourage them to do their very best.

Attendance to school remains a priority for us. Pupils 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. We are unfortunately seeing far too many pupils missing school during these first crucial weeks of the autumn term, many without valid reason. It goes without saying that after such a disrupted period in the education of young people globally, this is not the time to be at home if fit and well. Now is the time to be in school, learning and enjoying spending time with friends.

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, for school.

##### **➤ 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.

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.

### **Staffing**

We are fully staffed in all of our schools and we have given a big Northern Ambition welcome to those new staff who have joined our trust this year. The quality of our staff is of the upmost importance and we continue to work hard to recruit only the best.

### **Covid19 vaccination programme for young people aged 12 to 15**

You will have seen in the media that this autumn, all young people aged 12 to 15, are being offered a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. I would like to stress that this has nothing to do with Northern Ambition Academies Trust or Airedale Academy and is purely the responsibility of Public Health England and the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS). Any communication to parents/carers about the programme will come from the SAIS.

If you have questions about the vaccine, please speak to the school age immunisation service provider whose contact details will be on any communication sent from them to you. You can also access parent/carer guidance on the programme via <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-young-people-guidance-for-parents>

### **Secretary of State for Education**

I am sure you are all now aware that we have a new Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi. In an open letter sent by him to education and care professionals, I am delighted to read a promised focus on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable young people in our society. I am sure you are with me in looking forward to some positive change.

### **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 establish a parent/carer forum. This will provide an opportunity for any interested parents or carers to attend a termly meeting with myself and other executives from the Trust, to discuss topics raised by you. More information will be coming out to parents soon and I would urge you to become involved.

Yours faithfully,

**Elizabeth Fairhurst**

*Chief Executive*

Northern Ambition Academies Trust