



Learning, Culture and
Children's Services

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the Summer Term 2019

I hope you had a refreshing Easter holiday. I am delighted to welcome a new colleague this term – Julie Atkinson – who is replacing Kirstine Simpson as the lead tutor for Hair and Beauty. Due to the way the term dates have fallen this year we are well through the school year after only two terms. This means we have a very short first half term of 4 weeks and then a normal half term of 6 weeks in June and July. I have attached two calendars; one showing the remainder of this school year and the other the term dates for 2019/20 so that you can get ahead of diary planning.

We are now entering examination season and as you may remember from my March letter there will unfortunately be some unavoidable disruption to school days over the next few weeks.

Polling days Thursday 2.5.19 and Thursday 23.5.19. We have now been notified of 2 polling days by the Council; the 23.5 polling day is an additional one to account for the European elections. We have to close the Danesgate campus to all pupils when it is used as a polling station for safeguarding reasons. Lessons at New Earswick Folk Hall, Bell Farm Community Centre and Foxwood Community Centre will also be cancelled as these venues are being used as polling stations also. We will continue teaching pupils who are taught in the home or in their local library and any pupils who attend Ad Astra or Toolbox on a Thursday will also be unaffected and have their activities as normal. There is one GCSE examination on 23.5.19 and this will have to run as directed by the exam board.

Managing public examinations – there are SATs and GCSE examinations for a large number of pupils over May and June. We take exceptional care to make sure that pupils are supported in a lot of different and individualised ways in order to maximise their chance of success in examinations. This means we run exams in small groups and 1-1 situations with staff that pupils are familiar with rather than using bought in invigilators. Some exams take place at home or at different venues across the city but the majority are on the Danesgate site and many of our pupils have different access arrangements like having a reader or scribe, extra time or rest breaks. In order to manage these complex arrangements we have to re-organise the teaching for pupils not taking exams on the busiest of exam days (ie when a lot of pupils are sitting exams at the same time). I am very sorry that this may affect your son or daughter and thank you in advance for your understanding and support. Please find further information below.

Week beginning 13.5.19 is SATs week for Y6. There will be some changes to timetables for those Y6 pupils taking SATs. Key workers will contact parents individually to agree personalised plans as required.

GCSE examinations on busy days from 10.5.19. I have put all the information in a table below.

All teaching of secondary aged pupils (including those taught at home or in a community centre or library) will be rescheduled on the busiest exam days in order to release staff and rooms to run the examinations. If your son or daughter attends Rossmoor Grange or Ad Astra or Toolbox or Rockschoo then these activities will continue as normal. Also there will be no cancellation of lessons for any primary aged pupils but they may not be able to access all the spaces they normally do in the school whilst the examinations are in session.

If your son or daughter is in Y9, Y10 or Y11 and is sitting an examination then they will only come in for their exam on their exam day/s. If you have a son or daughter in Y11 then they are on study leave from 3.6.19 and will only come in for examinations from that date unless they have agreed revision lessons with their key worker. Any revision lessons agreed for Y11 pupils after study leave has begun should have been notified by their key worker on their 'up to end of exam plan'.

If you have a son or daughter of secondary age who is affected by the changes in the table below and is normally transported into school then please be reassured that we will have re-booked transport to match any changes.

Busy examination days	Who is affected by any changes	What those changes are
Friday 10 th May	All secondary aged pupils	11-1pm session only can be taught on this day
Wednesday 15 th May	All secondary aged pupils	11-1pm session only can be taught on this day
Friday 17 th May	All secondary aged pupils	11-1pm session only can be taught on this day
Tuesday 21 st May	All secondary aged pupils	Delayed start to the day – no lessons before 11am due to morning exam, afternoon lessons not affected
Half term holiday week Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May		
Tuesday 4 th June	All secondary aged pupils	Delayed start to the day – no lessons before 11am due to morning exam, afternoon lessons not affected
Thursday 6 th June	All secondary aged pupils	Delayed start to the day – no lessons before 11am due to morning exam, afternoon lessons not affected
Friday 7 th June	All secondary aged pupils	Delayed start to the day – no lessons before 11am due to morning exam, afternoon lessons not affected
Tuesday 11 th June	All secondary aged pupils	Delayed start to the day – no lessons before 11am due to morning exam, afternoon lessons not affected

Thank you in advance for your on-going support. I am really sorry for any inconvenience caused by these scheduling issues. Please ring 642611 if you have any queries or require any help as a result of these changes.

Yours sincerely



Patricia Head
Headteacher