



16th December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family are well.

As we come to the end of a busy but successful Autumn Term, I would like to share some highlights from each year group. In September, 280 year seven pupils joined Pleckgate. These new pupils have made an excellent start to secondary school and this week were rewarded in achievement assemblies and attended a very exciting end of term celebration. Our 2022 year 11 Leavers also joined us in November to share their success and receive their GCSE certificates. It was a wonderful evening as both pupils and staff reminisced about their experiences at school.

Our current year 11 pupils have just completed their mock examinations; they worked hard, were well prepared and we expect them to achieve good results. Results will be shared with pupils on our mock results day which is **Friday 20th January**. Year 10 pupils have also made a good start to their GCSE studies and have been involved in careers talks including dentistry, medicine and law. Year 9 pupils have demonstrated a fantastic involvement in extracurricular activities with over 100 pupils submitting applications for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Many pupils received awards and prizes this week in recognition of their success, commitment and hard work.

We are very proud of the pupils at Pleckgate and how they conduct themselves in lessons and in our wide range of extracurricular activities. I have attached our latest newsletter and careers information booklet, which I hope will give you an insight into the opportunities we provide for each child at school. I hope that you find this information helpful in knowing more about your child's experience at Pleckgate. I would also like to thank you for your support in sending donations for our charity collection for Night Safe, Blackburn Food Bank and Springfield Residential Centre, donations have been shared with all charities and you can read more about our charity work [here](#).

I also wish to provide you with some important information in preparation for the new term, as you know we have very high standards in terms of attendance, punctuality and behaviour. We value your support in discussing the points mentioned below.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attending school every day has a direct positive impact on achievement. We have recently launched the '100% club' and all children who demonstrate excellent attendance are involved in rewards programmes in recognition of their commitment and resilience. We do not authorise any holidays taken during school time and expect all pupils to maintain an excellent attendance record. Please stress to your child the importance of attending school every day and support us by helping your child to arrive on time to school by 8.20am at the latest, ready to meet their tutors and prepare for the day ahead.

Mobile phones

We advise all pupils to leave their mobile phones at home. The use of mobile phones in school increases the risk of bullying and safeguarding concerns. If your child does need to bring a mobile phone into school, it must be switched off at all times and kept in their school bag. If a pupil needs to contact home during the school day they are able to use the school telephone system. We urge all parents to be extremely vigilant with children's use of mobile phones at home (screen time) and closely monitor any social media platforms they have access to.



Uniform reminders

At Pleckgate we have extremely high standards and we ask that pupils adhere strictly to uniform policy outlined on the school website <https://www.pleckgate.com/uniform/>. All pupils must wear full and correct uniform including blue school trousers or skirt, black shoes not trainers and should bring a dark blue or black coat to wear outside when the weather is cold. Additionally, please note:

- PE uniform-only to be worn on days when they have PE, or when doing **practical lessons at KS4 in sports studies**
- Pupils are asked to wear only the school branded headscarves (available to purchase on the school website), not plain navy blue headscarves.
- Extreme hairstyles are **not** permitted in school. This included lines, cuts or shapes shaved into hair or eyebrows and hair dye/braiding.
- Jewellery is not permitted in school. Pupils should not wear earrings or cover earrings with plasters during term time.

The growing concern about Vaping

We have become aware of the national concern which has been raised recently about the increasing levels of young people vaping. The vast majority of our pupils do not wish to be associated with this habit. We urge parents to be vigilant for any signs that your son/daughter may be vaping. A reminder that e-cigarettes are a prohibited item in school and that any pupil caught in possession of an e-cigarette will be subject to serious sanctions.

Prohibited items

A reminder to all pupils and parents that energy drinks (including PRIME) are not allowed in school.

I have also attached a link to our safeguarding information for parents [here](#), which provides details of all the agencies and services that are available during the holiday whilst school services cannot be accessed.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support in working together to maintain high standards for our school.

I wish you a peaceful holiday period and we look forward to welcoming your child back to school on **Tuesday 3rd January at 8.20am.**

Best wishes

Aishling McGinty
Headteacher