19th July 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

We are a Character first school where all staff and students try their ***Personal Best*** and accept ***No Excuses***, every lesson, every day.

As we approach the end of term and the start of our summer break please can I update you as below:

**Key Stage 3 (Years 7/8) and Key Stage 4 (Years 9/10) End of Year Academic Reports**

Please find enclosed a copy of your child’s current Academic Report and attendance certificate. These are the results they obtained in the recent end of year exams.

KS3 students have an end of Year Target Step. Please can you discuss how their actual result compares to their target. KS4 students have been given a GCSE grade, this is the grade.

We have also recorded a Personal Best score to indicate how hard they have worked in each lesson this year.

If you have any further queries or concerns regarding the mock exams please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s Head of Year in the first instance.

**This Year**

St Nicholas has had a good year. We are on a steep trajectory of improvement. This was confirmed during our Section 5 Ofsted inspections in May, I enclose a summary of the report. Other highlights are:

* We have continued to improve further after Ofsted stated ***“we have transformed the culture of the school”*** and ***“teaching ensures students make good progress”***. Sixth Form was judged as ***“Good”***
* A ***“Good”*** Christian Ethos monitoring visit (Section 48) last week with many positives mentioned
* More students want to come to our school. 40% more Year 7’s will start with us in September. We will have 140 Year 7’s in September, we had 100 last September. 50% more Year 12’s will join our Sixth Form, we have 206 applications. This time last year we had 100 applications.
* 90 Year 13 leave us this term. 60 are going to University and 20 have gained employment in their chosen career and 10 will continue with us into Year 14 to complete their studies. The 60 going to University are going all over the country and most are the first person in their family to attend University. We wish all of them the very best.
* 120 Year 11’s leave us this term. 90 attended the Prom! Over 90 have applied to our Sixth Form. We will continue to work with them all to ensure they have the right Post 16 pathway. Again we wish them the very best.
* Staff attendance this year has been 98%, historically this has been a real issue for us.
* Student attendance is rapidly improving and is 92.8% (it was 91.5% last year). We need to get it to 95% next year.
* Parent’s evenings are now at 65% attendance, we were 40%. We need this to be 100% next year.

We will continue to improve. The above means our reputation within the community is improving and on behalf of all at St Nicholas I would like to thank you for your continued support. We will keep working together to ensure your child receives a world class education.

I am very proud to be your child’s Headteacher and work with such amazing young people and a very dedicated, high quality and hardworking staff. I promise you we will all try our Personal Best and be relentless in moving forward and being even better.

***Continued overleaf***

**Staffing**

We have appointed the staff below who will join us in September. These appointments are very exciting and we are sure they will help us continue to improve. Drama and Design are new subjects which we have not taught recently, students will really enjoy having these subjects back on their timetable!

Director of Science Mr Lavelle

Director of English Mrs Harrison-Marks

Head of PE Mr Corrigan

Teacher of Drama Miss Bowen

Teacher of Design Mr Stavrinou

Teacher of History Miss Begney

Teacher of Maths Miss Noonan

Teacher of RE Miss Yarewood

**2019 Exam Results**

Any student who will not be present to receive their results in person will need a letter authorising collection by a 3rd person which must be handed to the Exams Officer before results are passed over.

**Sixth Form Results Thursday 15th August 2019**

Year13 – Results will be given to students from 8.00am – 12.00pm

Year12 – Results will be given to students from 10.00am – 12.00pm

**GCSE Results Thursday 22nd August 2019**

Year 11 – Results will be given to students from 9.00am – 12.00pm in the Atrium

Followed by Sixth Form registration with Mrs Lawson

**Uniform**

This continues to improve and students are wearing it with pride. We make no excuses for having very high expectations and we thank you in advance for your support in this.

**New Year 7 students** You should now have your free school uniform voucher, please use it to obtain your uniform at Laser School wear.

All uniform details are contained in the information sheet enclosed. If you have any queries or questions regarding uniform please contact the academy. Can I remind you that all students are to wear **polishable school shoes** and not ‘trainers’. Our view is that Nike, Adidas and other sports brands do not make school shoes, they make trainers. Please note that the school jumper is not compulsory, but some students do chose to wear one.

Please also note we have a new Head of PE and we will insist on the same expectations in PE that all students must wear our academy PE Kit for their lessons and after school clubs/fixtures.

**Equipment**

Please can you ensure your child returns to the academy with the following items so they are ready to try their **Personal Best:**

• Bag (Year 7 must have our bag) • Pencils

• Pencil Case • Ruler

• Pens • Eraser

The bags for our new Year 7 will be on site mid-August, please do not buy another bag. See enclosed leaflet for new Year 7 only. We will let you know when they are here. We will provide an Academy Planner.

Continued overleaf ….

**First Day Back for Students is Wednesday 4th September 2019**

Please see below the arrangements:

* All new Year 7 and Year 11 students need to arrive at our normal start time of 8.40am
* Year 8, 9 & 10 need to arrive at 11.00am
* We will finish at normal time, 2.50pm.

**Speke Bus**

The free bus that we provide to and from Speke will continue next year. If you wish for your child to be on it they must have a pass, if you have any queries regarding this please contact your child’s respective Head of Year. Students who have a restorative practice session at the end of the day will miss the school bus so students need to be prepared to make their own way home if this is the case.

**Next Year**

Thank you in advance for you continued support. One of our plans for next year is to be better at communicating with you, for example we will introduce a Class Chart App that will allow you to keep a close eye on your child’s Achievement and Behaviour points. We will also look to use Social Media more effectively. Please can I ask you to follow us on Twitter @ACADEMYSTNICKS.

**Open Evening**

Please find enclosed a leaflet advertising our Year 6 Open Evening, could I ask you to help us publicise this event by passing on this leaflet to friends and family. We anticipate a very busy evening due to our improving reputation.

However we know the best form of communication is to talk and as always please feel free to contact us if you have any concerns or queries.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Lancaster

Headteacher