

20th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of our first half term, we wanted to take this opportunity to update you on some recent changes to Student Support at North Gosforth Academy. It has been a really positive start to the year with lots of exciting new developments, and as your child is on our current SEND register, we want to make sure you are fully informed of all of the support that is available to them, both from our team and across the wider school.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club takes place every morning in the Refectory from 8:00-8:30. Students can join us for free breakfast, and a member of the Learning Support Department is always present to help with homework, or with any other concerns they may have. We will be encouraging students to attend and use this time to develop their reading, with some interventions taking place.

Homework Club

Homework Club takes place in the library (LRC) after school and is an opportunity for all students to get support with their homework and to access a computer if needed.

	Year groups
Monday 3.10pm – 4pm	Years 9-11
Tuesday 3.10pm – 4pm	Years 7 & 8
Wednesday 3.10pm – 4pm	Years 9-11
Thursday 3.10pm – 4pm	Years 7 & 8

The Hive (tbc???)

Returning students will remember 'The Hive' from last year, and over the summer our Learning Support Department has relocated to new rooms in the West Wing of the school. As part of this relocation, our students have shared their ideas and carried out a school-wide vote to officially rename the area... check our website out for the final decisions.

Our new rooms provide a calm environment and a quiet space for students to work with our Learning Support Team on overcoming any barriers they are facing to their learning. We provide a safe space where students can access support and work on strategies to help them succeed in the classroom. This space is also available to students during breaks and lunches to check in with us as needed.

Pete Fox Principal

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Supported Social Time

We want our students to have as many opportunities as possible to spend time with their peers and access social times throughout the school day. With this in mind, we've designated a separate, smaller room to the side of the refectory where students are able to spend break and lunch with their friends in a calm, relaxed atmosphere. This room connects to the main lunch area in the Refectory to allow students opportunities to mingle more widely with friends in their year group if they feel they want to, whilst also providing a quieter eating option when this is needed.

Supported Extra-Curricular Activities

The following Extra-Curricular Activities are offered by the Learning Support Department for designated students only, and we'll be in contact to invite your child to these sessions if we feel they would benefit from the additional support that they offer.

	Club
Monday 3.10pm – 4pm	Cooking Club
Wednesday 3.10pm – 4pm	Fitness Club
Thursday 3.10pm – 4pm	Allotment Club

Whole-school Extra Curricular Activities

The following Extra-Curricular Activities are available to the whole school and are a great opportunity to explore new areas of interest, get to know other students and to build confidence.

	Club
Monday	Y7 & Y8 Badminton (<i>lunchtime</i>) Y8 Football (<i>lunchtime</i>) Y9 Football (<i>after school</i>) Y7-Y11 Spanish Cinema Club (<i>after school</i>)
Wednesday	Y7 Football (<i>after school</i>) Y7-Y11 Badminton (<i>after school</i>) Y7-Y11 Chess Club (<i>after school</i>)
Thursday	Y7 & Y8 Basketball (<i>lunchtime</i>) Y7 & Y8 Netball (<i>after school</i>) Y9 MasterChef Club (<i>after school</i>) Y7-Y11 Rugby with Newcastle Falcons coach (<i>after school</i>) Y7-Y11 Choir Club (<i>after school</i>)
Friday	Y7 & Y8 STEM Club (<i>Friday week 1 lunchtime</i>) Y7-Y11 Reading Focus Group (<i>Friday week 1 lunchtime</i>) Y10 Football (<i>after school</i>) Y7-Y11 Art Club (<i>after school</i>)

In-class Support and Targeted Interventions

Our Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) provide in-class support and one-to-one or small group interventions for designated students in line with the statutory requirements given in EHCPs or in accordance with specialist recommendations. If you have questions about this, and what your child has access to, please get in contact.

Heads of Year and Key Workers

Each year group at our school has their own Head of Year, and in addition has a designated member of the Learning Support Team who acts as their key worker.

Your child will be supported by all members of our team, and we want them to feel comfortable working with all our Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) in lessons. In addition to this, a key worker for their year group will be their main point of contact and be responsible for liaising with teachers where needed.

LSAs conduct weekly check-ins with their year group during Learning for Life lessons, and can be found at breaks and lunches in 'The Hive' if students need them

	Head of Year	Learning Support Department Key Worker
Year 7	Sophie Ritchie	Lisa Wilson
Year 8	James Brooks	Megan McKenry
Year 9	Alice Walledge	Erica Reche and Elisha Reeve
Year 10	Steven Spence	Rachel Smith
Year 11	Debbie Blenkinsop	Kemi Ritchie

Looking Forwards

It's been a pleasure working with all our students since the start of term, and we're all looking forward to an exciting year ahead! If you have any questions, or would like further information about any of the support mentioned in this letter, please get in touch. Additionally, if you have any suggestions then we are always happy to listen.

We have a document that we would like you and your child to complete and return to NGA, this will help us in updating your child's support plan which is shared with staff and will give your child a further voice in the classroom. Please access it via this link, our website (under SEND) or alternatively if you require a paper copy please just let me know:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=1FHki3M0o02ISREa1fQVa1iZRcTbC3hAryYa0fh9URIUMzhVTUNOQ0VKSkZURzZONVVHVFM3TE9HSS4u>

Local Offer

Please also check out our website for updated information regarding SEND provision and the Local Offers for each authority: -

North Tyneside

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1243/local-offer-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send>

Newcastle

<https://www.newcastlesupportdirectory.org.uk/kb5/newcastle/fsd/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0>

Northumberland

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Northumberland-Local-Offer-SEND-0-to-25-years/Your-local-offer.aspx>

Yours sincerely,

Rachel M Smith

SENDCo, North Gosforth Academy