



12 January 2024

Dear Parents, Carers

Happy New Year!

I hope the break and festive season was a good one for you all.

This letter contains some key reminders as well as pointers for things you need to be aware of as we move in to the new calendar year and begin to approach some of the key challenges of the academic year.

### 1. Examination Season, Data and Support

The specific exam schedule for Y12 and Y13 Mocks will be issued soon – recall the examination window straddles February half-term for necessary logistical reasons.

Please recall that we are always here to support with the stresses and strains your children face, whether exam-related or otherwise. We are also happy to advise you on how you might help your children. The next tranche of examinations will feed in to G4S and Data 2 near Easter, upon which we will identify any additional academic and pastoral support needs – in addition to those which have been put in place after Data 1 or at any other point. Of course, you need not wait for these data windows to let us know of any support you may feel is needed.

### 2. UCAS and Future Pathways

The Y13 internal deadline for UCAS submissions has now passed – we are in process of working with those remaining few Y13 who can still meet the external UCAS deadline towards the end of January. We are pleased that over 100 applications have been made already and that there are so many offers being given which will help incentivise our Y13.

Recall that Y12 can always start the process now if they choose – though the formal Future Pathways launch (which includes guidance on UCAS but also apprenticeships, gap years and employment) will be in the last half-term. Please refer to the links issued previously and to students.

Before then, we have lots of excellent Careers opportunities available to our Sixth Form students – including provision in Apprenticeships Week this term and via opportunities afforded by our terrific Careers Team.

### 3. Polite Requests and Reminders

Where we sympathise with demands on time and look to be as flexible as is reasonably possible, we would ask that parents continue to support us in ensuring learning in the classroom remains paramount by avoiding making requests for Open Day visits or Driving Theory Tests: universities generally make Open Days available at weekends and in holidays, while we understand that Driving Theory Tests are generally available (if perhaps limited) at a range of times so do not need to be undertaken in school time. It remains fine to request time off for a Practical Driving Test as these are set centrally with no time options given.

#### 4. Enrichment Programme

As you will see from the below, our Enrichment Programme is very well-received. We have opened up a new range of opportunities to complement what was previously available. These include:

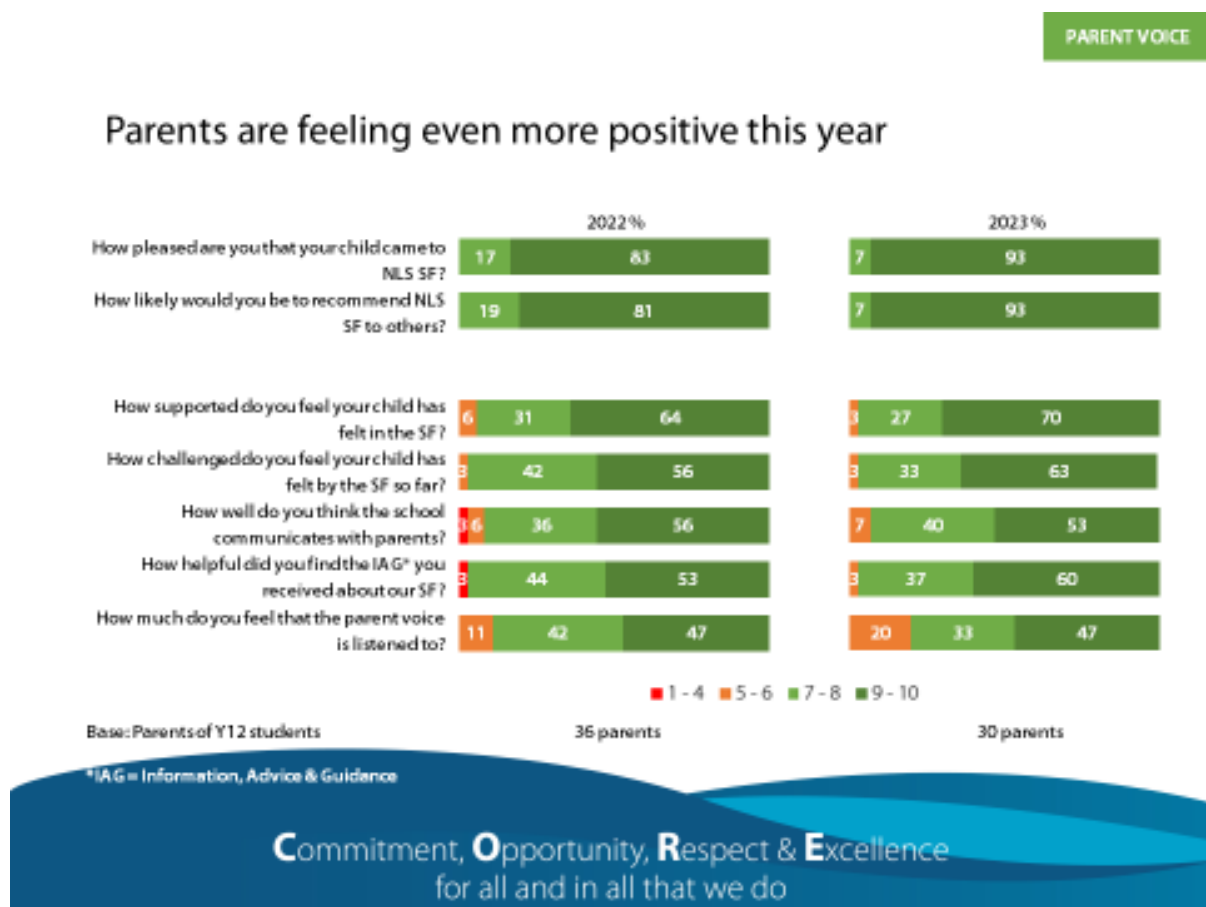
- Care home volunteer work
- Functioning as a Teaching Assistant Weds P5 for Main School subject lessons
- Online Work Experience

Students have also had the opportunity to refresh their choices from the existing range on offer.

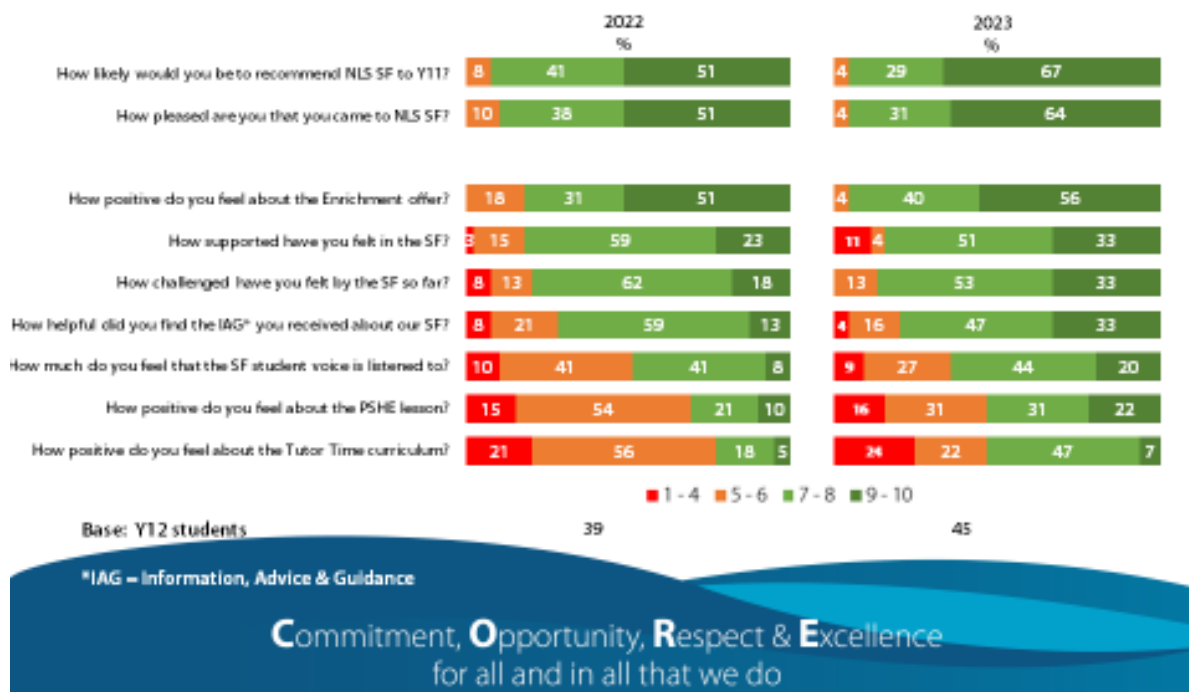
#### 5. Parent Voice and Feedback

Many thanks to the respondents to our Y12 Transition Survey and to the Y13 Parent Evening Questionnaire. It has been heartening to see so much positive feedback.

In terms of some Y12 headlines where parents were asked to respond to questions on a scale of 1-10 where 10 was positive and where comparison with 2022 was had:



## Students feel even more positive this year



In response to the constructively critical feedback, we are in process of:

- Reviewing means to enhance Parent and Student Voice opportunities
- Exploring ways to sharpen the Tutor Time and P.S.H.E. experience of students
- Looking in to means to complement the IAG available prior to entry and while enrolled

In terms of Y13 headlines:

56	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		N/A	
1. My child is happy at NLS	39	70%	16	29%		0%	1	2%		0%
2. My child feels safe at NLS.	46	82%	10	18%		0%		0%		0%
3. NLS makes sure its students are well behaved.	26	46%	27	48%	2	4%		0%	1	2%
4. NLS deals with bullying quickly and effectively.	13	23%	15	27%	4	7%		0%	23	41%
5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	18	32%	29	52%	8	14%		0%	1	2%
6. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	21	38%	19	34%	3	5%		0%	12	21%
7. My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	11	20%	8	14%	2	4%	1	2%	32	57%
8. NLS has high expectations for my child.	42	75%	13	23%	1	2%		0%		0%
9. My child does well at NLS.	34	61%	21	38%	1	2%		0%		0%
10. The school lets me know how my child is doing.	31	55%	23	41%	1	2%	1	2%		0%
11. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at NLS	25	45%	26	46%	4	7%		0%	1	2%
12. My child can take part in clubs and activities at NLS.	17	30%	26	46%	5	9%	1	2%	7	13%
13. NLS supports my child's wider personal development.	22	39%	23	41%	7	13%	1	2%	2	4%
14. I would recommend NLS to another parent/carer	33	59%	22	39%	1	2%		0%		0%

In response to this, we will:

- signpost again the curriculum maps available:

<https://www.northleamington.co.uk/sixth-form/curriculum-1>

- review our formal curriculum offer (subject range) as well as our enrichment and wider curriculum offer to see what further enhancements might be possible

We really appreciate all the positive feedback as well the constructive, supportive suggestions as to how we can enhance our provision.

As an RSC Associate School we have been offered tickets to the preview of First Encounters with Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet on Tuesday, 30 January 2024, 18:30 - 20:00, at Sydenham Primary School, Leamington Spa. Tickets are available for NLS using the following link. There are 150 available and have been offered to all the schools in the Leamington Network. Access to the ticket sales is [here](#).

On a final note, many thanks for all you have done as parents to support the fantastic outcomes which we have achieved as a school over recent years. You will no doubt have seen some of the tremendous accolades recently published – which includes the fact that our outgoing Y13 secured attainment in the Top 7% nationally!

A phenomenal achievement with contributions from all stakeholders supporting the hard work and dedication of our terrific students.

I hope you have a great weekend.

Yours sincerely



S.A. Taylor – Senior Assistant Headteacher (including Head of Sixth Form).