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Dear Parents / Carers

Happy New Year, I hope as families you enjoyed the festive break, it's been lovely to welcome students back to site this week. I wanted to share two fantastic news items to start the year – firstly our student destination data for Year 11 leavers last year has now been confirmed. I am really pleased to inform you that 99.6% of our leavers have continued in full time education and training at accredited providers where students are taking their next steps towards chosen careers. The currency students' gain from time here at NLS is vital in helping secure such excellent destinations when either moving into our sixth form or various college and apprenticeship placements. It's important to recognise the hard work of students and parents and carers in achieving such excellent destinations and also the excellent careers support students receive throughout their time at NLS. Secondly, I am pleased to announce that our school has once again been awarded International School status by the British Council for the outstanding development of the international dimension in the curriculum. Our work continues with our partnership school in India, our School International Student leaders continue to support projects in school and each subject area has enriched its curriculum through a global delivery.

Please do familiarise yourself with the school calendar located [here](#), key events kick off in earnest next week with two Year 11 BTEC exams. Year 9 Subject Evening is on the 16th January and Year 7 Subject Evening is on the 23rd January - both are really key evenings in supporting students to be successful at school. Booking information was sent to parents in December, a reminder that all previous letters are located on our website [here](#) should you wish to access any school communication.

As we start the New Year can I remind parents of the importance of supporting your child to arrive at school on time, inclusive of sixth form students. Learning starts in classrooms at 8:50am which requires students to be onsite well in advance and fully prepared for their first lesson. Drop off areas are much quieter at 8:30am, parents arriving by car earlier will help reduce congestion around the school and our local community. Many facilities, inclusive of the Library and Canteen, are open to support students on arrival.

Thank you to all parents, carers and students who completed our Home Learning (Homework) questionnaire. We received over 300 parental and over 900 student replies. Over the coming months we will be working to revise our policy to better meet the needs of our learners moving forward.

Lastly today, some advanced notice of possible National Industrial Action, on behalf of members, of both teaching and support staff unions. I am sure it won't have escaped anyone's attention of the current funding concerns in many public service areas, both in terms of funding streams to provide efficient services as well as staff pay. All schools have been given notice that Unions are in a formal trade dispute with the Secretary of State for Education and are balloting members to strike in the week commencing 30th January. Should they vote in favour and a strike is called this could affect our ability to run the school safely and lead to a school closure. I will write again towards the end of the

month with further detail. Should a school closure be required a remote learning plan will be put in place to support students working from home. Any public examinations and health vaccinations scheduled in that week would still go ahead.

I hope the term is a successful one for all.

Mike Lowdell
Head Teacher