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9 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

A welcome back to many of you and a first welcome for all our new parents and carers joining our community this year. It's a pleasure to write to you today, albeit tinged with sadness after the passing of our Queen yesterday, a truly remarkable lady, her lifetime of public service is one that we all give thanks for. Here at school today we have marked her passing with tutor time activities and I expect like many places around the UK and Commonwealth today has felt slightly less vibrant and more sombre as many reflect on the end of such a wonderful era. We await to hear further instruction of the mourning period, funeral and its implication for a potential school closure should a bank holiday be named.

It was a pleasure to welcome all students back to school personally this week in conjunction with Year Leaders in their first assembly of the year. The start of term gives all an opportunity to write exciting new things on their blank pages in their journey here at North Leamington School regardless of year group. All students, quite rightly, have different goals, hopes and aspirations in whatever year group they are in - I wish them all the best of luck this year and implore them to be committed to their studies and make the most of all the opportunities on offer. Next week all students will have a college assembly where again, we will pay tribute to the Queen who reinforced the concept of community spirit, a fundamental building block of our college system.

I hope new and existing parents managed to see the press reports or our news stories located on our website of our students' fantastic results at both GCSE and A Level from the summer. If not please do take time to recognise their achievements <https://www.northleamington.co.uk/>

We were all so proud of their efforts, they were the first year group to sit full public examinations since 2019 and worked so hard achieving wonderful next step destinations.

We continue to try and ensure our communication with school and home is as useful and as smart as possible. For those new to the community, whole school communications will come on Friday's and where possible bespoke to each year group – please do ensure your contact details are updated here at school if required. Our website and G4Schools are our two main sources of information - instructions can be found on the website <https://www.northleamington.co.uk/learn/go-4-schools-g4s> and more detailed support for our new parents of students in Year 7 will be given in today's Year 7 letter and at the Meet the Tutor evening on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October. Effective communication is key in supporting all our young people, we will try hard to keep communications timely and specific. All staff contact details are again available on the website <https://www.northleamington.co.uk/aboutus/meet-the-team/teaching-staff>. We ask you to contact your child's tutor in the first instance unless it's more appropriate to direct your query to a specific department, staff member or area of the school.

I would like to draw your attention to the Household Support Fund letter attached provided by the Local Authority. We are very aware that some families may well be struggling with the cost of living crisis and the local welfare scheme may offer some help [Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme – Warwickshire County Council](#) for qualifying households. Likewise the Children’s Commissioner has launched the Big Summer Survey where young people have an opportunity to share their views on family which will help inform government policy moving forward <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-summer-survey/> Students will be sent the link on G4Schools should they wish to take part.

Please do read the Academisation letter attached. I am really excited to share with you our Trust Growth plan and hopefully the formal partnerships we can start to develop over the coming years to better support the wider community. Lastly today, I would like to extend an invite to anyone wishing to support the School in its Governance. We are seeking to appoint a new co-opted trustee (Governor) to one of our Local Governing Committees here at North Leamington School, this does not need to be a parent or career, but likewise can be. The role is a very rewarding one, the Trustees promote the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school, are a critical friend, holding school leaders to account for the schools performance and oversee the use of resources ensuring money is spent well. We are fortunate to have an excellent group of Trustees and we look forward to adding further strength and skill to this group as we continue to deliver excellent outcomes for our young people. Should this be of interest, the National Governance Association of which we subscribe has produced a helpful video clip about Governance <https://www.nga.org.uk/Governance-Recruitment/Be-a-school-governor-or-trustee.aspx> and I would ask you to complete the following link should you wish to apply. The closing date for applications will be Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September <https://forms.office.com/r/fXJ595PKJ4>

Have a great weekend.

Mike Lowdell  
Head Teacher