



Friday 10 January

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Happy New Year!

We hope you and your families had a restful and enjoyable holiday season. As we begin 2025, we are excited to welcome students back to school and are looking forward to a term filled with growth, learning, and important conversations.

As we move into a new term, I would like to take this opportunity to revisit our World Class Basics of uniform and punctuality.

Wearing school uniform is an integral part of our school community in promoting positive attitudes as well as high standards, and this is being reinforced with students over the next fortnight in response to an increase in misdemeanours such as incorrect footwear and not wearing a tie at the end of last term. We will implement this in line with our behaviour and engagement policy and remind students through assemblies and tutor time of our processes and expectations. The student dress code is outlined in our uniform policy, available on the Uniform section of our website [Uniform Information](#)

Likewise, punctuality and good attendance to school are an integral part of being ready to learn, therefore we will be working with students on the importance of being on site prior to 08.45 in readiness to be on time to lesson 1.

## Tutor Time Themes for this Term

This term, our tutor time sessions will focus on engaging and thought-provoking themes, including:

- **Why People Game:** Exploring the motivations and benefits behind gaming.
- **Social and Moral Viewpoints:** Discussing how gaming impacts individuals and communities.
- **The Problems of Gaming:** Delving into challenges such as screen time, addiction, and online interactions.
- **The Potential for Harm:** Addressing issues such as cyberbullying and its effect on mental health.

These tutor time sessions aim to encourage reflection and critical thinking, providing students with the tools to navigate these topics in a balanced and informed way.

## Children's Mental Health Week

We will also take part in activities during Children's Mental Health Week, where we will be reminding students of the importance of looking after their wellbeing and signposting and reminding students of mental health support available both at NLS and externally through recommended agencies.

## National Apprenticeships Week

In addition, we will highlight National Apprenticeships Week, showcasing alternative pathways to success after school. Students will gain insights into the variety of opportunities available, helping them think ahead to their futures.

### Starting the GCSE Options Process

This term marks an important milestone as we begin the process of choosing GCSE option subjects. Students will take part in assemblies and taster sessions designed to provide them with detailed information about the courses available and what to expect. This process will culminate in our Year 9 Parents' Evening, at the end of March. This evening will offer an opportunity to discuss your child's option choices in detail with subject teachers and gain guidance on making the best choices for their future.

We are fully committed to supporting all our Year 9 students in their academic and personal development. If you have any questions or would like more information about the term ahead, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we look forward to a successful and enriching term.

Warmest regards,

Alan Boyes  
Year 9 Lead