

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this half term. It has been an incredibly busy one!

Vaughan Hamilton, our Head of 6th Form, is leaving us on the 1st November to work at Nottingham University. Vaughan has made significant contributions towards the development of the 6th form at NUSA and we know that he will be sorely missed by both staff and students. Mrs Fletcher will take over as the lead of 6th Form. As Mrs Fletcher will leave the role of Assistant Head of Year for Year 7 and 8, I will inform you of the changes within the pastoral structure during the new half term.

As mentioned in a previous letter, punctuality is still a concern for us. As a result of this, we will be increasing the Kickboard tariff to -30 from Monday 4th November 2019.

The Department of Education and Ofsted have set out a new agenda for schools under the umbrella title of the 'Knowledge Led Curriculum' (KLC). This agenda is now 'live' and it is the framework by which all schools will be inspected and judged. From an educational viewpoint, it is broadly welcomed because judgements about schools will be primarily shaped by the 'quality of education' inspectors see in classrooms, rather than just looking at outcomes.

This significant change requires every school and classroom teacher to re-engineer their approach to the education they provide for their learners. This is both exciting and challenging. In order to secure this new agenda, the Nova Education Trust, and its associated schools, have set out an ambitious programme of staff development in order to ensure we deliver education to the highest of standards within this new framework. This agenda will require significant training inputs over the next few years.

As a key starting point to delivering the necessary training for the 'KLC' agenda, the Nova Education Trust Directors have granted an additional training day on:

Wednesday 4th December 2019

This means that our school will be closed to children on the above date. We hope this notice will enable families to more easily make alternative arrangements for child care and supervision.

At some point in the New Year our school will be inviting all parents/carers to an information evening regarding how the KLC agenda is being delivered in our school.

In the meantime, please accept my gratitude and thanks in anticipation of your understanding and support over the additional training day.

Advanced notices:

Friday 15th November – non-school uniform day for Children in Need

Christmas trips for all year groups have been provisionally booked. This year will be slightly different in that all students will be able to choose from a selection of trips as opposed to being given just one choice. As a result of this, I wanted to ensure you had plenty of notice regarding payments of Christmas trips. Permission letters will go out at the start of next half term. The most expensive trip will be a maximum of £15.

I would like to wish you all a happy, safe and healthy half term.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'E Howard', written in black ink.

Emma Howard
Head of School