

Dear Parents/Carers,

It appears this year has come and gone so quickly but so much has been achieved by students and staff. In my first full year as Headteacher of Consett Academy, I have seen first-hand how incredibly hard our students work and how respectful they are of each other. When I look forward to September, I am excited by having the opportunity to work with the students of Consett again and I have no doubt it will be another stellar year. Below is some key information for parents/carers so you have as much information as possible:

### **Return in September**

**Year 7, 11, 12 and 13** will return on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 8.20 am.**

**All students** will return **on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 8.20am.**

A polite reminder to parents that students must arrive promptly each day.

### **Staffing**

This time of year is always when we sadly have to say goodbye to members of staff who have worked so hard over their time at Consett. The following staff will be moving on to pastures new next year:

Miss Baelden (MFL)  
Mrs Beckett (Maths)  
Mr Fenix (Maths)  
Mr Clough (Maths)  
Mr Simpson (PE)  
Mr Williams (History)  
Mrs Davis (Art)  
Miss Cleasby (Science)

Although it is always hard when people move on, I am delighted to announce that we are fully staffed for September which is an excellent position to be in to ensure the quality of education our students receive remains good. Staff who will be joining us in September are:

Mrs Flowers (MFL)  
Mrs Fenwick (MFL)  
Mr McVay (PE)  
Miss Abbot (PE)  
Mrs McAllister (Head of History)  
Miss Gould (Science)  
Mrs Davies (Maths)  
Mr Johnson (History)  
Mr Blackburn (Philosophy and RE)

Following these appointments, I am delighted with our staffing for September and the mix of strong staff who have been at Consett for several years and those that will inject further positivity will really help improve the culture here even further.

## SEND

The quality of SEND provision is a real focus for us in September and particularly around those students with cognition and learning needs. Training with staff has already taken place around strategies for these students to make sure they are supported and making progress. Mrs Brierley (SENDCO) has done lots of work on this area already and will be monitoring teaching of SEND daily and making adaptations where required. I am also delighted that we have been able to appoint 3 additional new Teaching Assistants to further support our SEND pupils. If any parent has any concerns around SEND, then please contact Mrs Brierley on [lbrierley@consettacademy.org.uk](mailto:lbrierley@consettacademy.org.uk)

## Uniform

Mr Middleton sent out an update on uniform a couple of weeks ago, but I would just like to remind parents/carers of key points:

Trousers must go past the ankle and students must wear black socks that go above the ankle.

Shoes must be black and polishable.

Year groups will now have their own individual tie of a distinct colour to give them a real sense of identity across the Academy. Students in Years 8-11 will be issued with a new tie in September free of charge.

Jewellery, false nails and false eye lashes are not permitted and should not come into the Academy.

All students are expected to bring a bag, pencil case, ruler, black pen, green pen, and pencil.

**Please note that pencil sharpeners are not permitted in the Academy.**

## Setting

We have made some changes to the way in which we are going to set students from September which is going to really support them to make as much progress as possible. We are moving away from mixed ability setting and from September students will be grouped by ability based on their target grade. This approach will really help ensure that teachers can adapt the learning to meet the needs of specific learners so that all students can make progress. More information can be found on setting below:

WHAT are the changes?	For the 2023-24 academic year Consett Academy have decided to set students by their academic ability instead of in mixed ability sets.
WHY are the changes being made?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will be working at a similar ability to those in their class.</li><li>• Work in lessons will be accessible for all students.</li><li>• Those students who require support will have this more readily available in lessons, whether this be through teacher differentiation or teaching assistant support.</li></ul>
HOW the changes have been made.	Heads of Year have met with Heads of Core (English, Maths and Science) and set students based on their target grades and recent assessment grades.

S Band	E Band	T Band
S1	E1	T1
S2	E2	T2
S3	E3	T3
S4	E4	T4

### **How setting works at Consett Academy**

Each student is based in either S, E or T band based on their target grades and assessment performance.

Students can be in different classes within this band though they must remain in the same band. For example, a student can be in S1 for English and Science but S4 for Maths. However, a student cannot be in S band for one subject and E or T band for another subject.

In year 10 students will be in their option choices when not in core subjects (English, Maths and Science).

In years 7-9 students will be in the same class for non-core as they are for Science. For example, if they are in S4 for Science then they will be in S4 for History.

### **Class changes**

Our new setting structure means that any class moves can only be made for academic and progress reasons. These will only happen after each data collection window.

### **Key Information**

Our website contains key information for parents/carers which is updated regularly. I would just like to signpost you all to some key documents:

Data Collection Calendar- This calendar informs parents on when assessments will take place for students across the curriculum. It is important that you are aware of these dates so you can support your child with revision at home.

Medium Term Plans- These plans explain to you all what students will be taught for each subject and when so that parents are clear on what their child is learning.

Calendar- All these events for next year are available on here so parents know key dates and can plan accordingly.

### **Support for Families**

As always, we are here to support families when they need our help. I know things are still tough for people in the current climate and things do not seem to be improving. If any parent/carer does need support, I would urge you to contact our Head of Student Support (Mrs Clarke) on [KClarke@consettacademy.org.uk](mailto:KClarke@consettacademy.org.uk) and we will endeavour to provide as much help as we can.

### **Summer Wishes**

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support this year and in my time here. My open-door policy remains and if anyone does want to see how brilliant the Academy is, just get in touch and I will show you exactly what goes on here. I hope all our families have a great summer and our students come back well rested and excited for another year at Consett Academy. The last day for pupils this academic year is **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 3.00pm.**

Yours Sincerely,



Mr Urwin

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