

# The Joseph Whitaker School

*An Academy specialising in Sport and Performing Arts*



28 September 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

## **Autumn Term Updates**

### ***School Marking Policy***

In response to national research detailing the impact of marking and what constitutes effective feedback, we are undertaking a review of our marking policy. We felt that our current marking policy needed to be amended to reflect the changes at both GCSE and A level, as well as being able to take into account different subject requirements.

In light of this, we have carried out some initial review work and training during the September INSET and this will continue in stages throughout the academic year. All departments will now mark work in line with individual departmental policies and trial more efficient marking methods. I would stress that this is a pilot in the first instance.

As a parent, over the coming weeks you will notice in your child's work a variety of methods in marking which may differ to what you have seen previously. We want to reassure you that at the heart of this review, children's progress is at the forefront and any change in method will not affect the progress of learning. Our expectations remain clear that work must show progress and include time to reflect and improve upon their work in all subjects.

We value your feedback as a parent and in the Spring Term we will be seeking your opinion on the changes, alongside the views of the students themselves. All feedback will be shared with the LGB prior to the implementation of the revised school policy in September 2019. A copy of an overview of the current marking policy is available on request from Mrs Souter.

### ***Schools and Early Intervention Officers (SEIO)***

During 2017-18 Nottinghamshire Police have trialled the SEIO programme in a number of schools and communities. Craig Guildford, Nottinghamshire Police Chief Constable, is a strong advocate of preventative local policing, especially relating to young people, in order that positive relationships are established within an educational setting. This is based on the principles of the Safer Schools Partnerships which operated from 2002 onwards, until the funding was removed.



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As part of the programme PC Nick Stenner has been appointed as the Newark and Sherwood SEIO. He will work across all schools and their local communities within the District providing education, careers advice, reassurance and support as part of a multi-agency approach. The Joseph Whitaker School are happy to support this initiative and we have provided a base within Student Services for PC Stenner to operate from.

### **China 2019**

The interest in the proposed trip has been exceptional and I can confirm that this exchange visit will now take place in October 2019. We will be contacting all the students and parents who have paid deposits in the next week with further details.

### **Use of the School Car Parks**

A polite reminder that the Sports Hall Car Park should not be used to drop off or pick up students. Please use the bus park during mornings and either park away from school in the evening or wait until 3.15pm when the sports hall car park tends to be less busy. Please be aware that Nottinghamshire County Council have increased their traffic enforcement vehicles operating outside schools, with penalty notices of £70 for those parking or stopping illegally. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

### **School Communication**

For regular news updates please consider following our website, facebook and twitter feeds. Insight is used for general letters, reports and identified groups. The links are available on the new school website.

### **Dates for the Diary**

Thursday 11 October	Y7 Parents Consultation 3.30pm
Wednesday 17 October	Sports Presentation Evening
Thursday 18 October	Y13 Parents Consultation 3.30pm
Friday 26 October 3.05pm	October half-term begins

Advance notice: Friday 23 November School closed STAFF INSET

Yours sincerely

*David Bell*  
**Headteacher**



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