



NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY
SAMWORTH ACADEMY

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Dear Parents and Carers of Year 8,

I am writing to welcome you and your children to the 2016-17 academic year at NUSA! I hope that everyone enjoyed the summer months, and that our pupils are rested and ready for the challenges of a new school year.

The start of every year is always an exciting time in a school. There are new lessons, new books, new teachers and new opportunities. Not everything changes though, and our school motto remains constant: "Work hard, be kind". It is exactly these values that helped our Year 11s of 2015-16 secure the best examination results ever seen at the academy. 52% of our pupils secured GCSEs that included A*- C grades in English and mathematics, and grades in almost every other subject showed big improvements, too.

It is then, a great time to be a pupil at NUSA. I would like to wish all of our pupils the very best for this year, and I look forward to seeing what we can all achieve together!

Mark Watts
Head of School

Message from Mrs Whiteley, Mr Derrick, Mr Kirkby and Ms Dabbs
Year 8

Year 8 have made a very positive start to their second year of study at NUSA. Pupils are already displaying a more mature attitude as befitting the oldest year group in key stage 3.

Due to a reorganisation of the curriculum and progress board examination scores from last summer, there have been some movements in terms of pupil sets. These are by no means permanent and reflect our commitment to ensure that your child is receiving the most appropriate educational provision to secure both their short term progress and ability to access key stage 4 courses. If you have any questions about your child's groupings please contact Mr Kirkby or Mr Derrick on the school number.

Progress Board Exams

During the week commencing 5th December 2016 your child will complete their first block of three sets of Progress Board Exams. We will send you further information nearer the time. We will support them through their Personal Development lessons to prepare and revise for these exams. We believe that children succeed when they feel calm and organised. Together we can help them achieve this.

Parents' Evening – Wednesday 8th March 2017

This will be an opportunity to meet with all of the teachers of the subjects that your children are learning. This will also be an important step in preparing for Year 8 Options Evening the following week. Make a note in your diary and we will send you more information nearer the time.

Options Evening – Wednesday 15th March 2017

This is an essential evening to help to inform and clarify options and pathways that pupils can access as they move into Key Stage 4. There will be a significant amount of information coming out in the lead up to this event and we welcome any questions and engagement from pupils and parents once the process begins.

Make a note in your diary and we will send you more information nearer the time.

Uniform

Our school uniform supplier for 2016-17 continues to be Price & Buckland <http://www.price-buckland.co.uk/parents-area/how-do-i-order/> and orders can be placed online or via their telephone order line 0115 964 0827. Deliveries can be made to your home address or if more convenient to the academy premises. Within the academy we do hold a limited amount of stock and can offer assistance with uniform orders on a daily basis between 12:45 pm and 1.15pm. If you would like to make use of this service please either drop in during this time to see the Admin Office or call the Academy main switchboard. Should this time not be suitable for you please contact your year team so that we can work together on an alternative solution.

Equipment

Please can we remind you that students need basic equipment. Pen, pencil, ruler, sharpener, rubber and coloured pencils in a pencil case. They have all been issued with a Student Planner. Homework is set and recorded in the Planner. We ask that you support us by signing your child's planner each week once you have checked that they have completed it.

Uniform needs clearly labelling including P.E kit. This will help your child locate any items should they lose them and reduce any confusion.

Extra-Curricular Timetable

There will be lots of opportunities for your children at NUSA. We are compiling our Extra-Curricular timetable and will publish a copy of this so that you can see which clubs and activities they can take part in before and after school.

All of the letters that we send home to you will be published on the school website. We also try to send text reminders so please make sure that we always have up to date contact numbers.

Mrs M Whiteley
Senior Leader KS3 Achievement

Mr S Kirkby
Head of Year 8