

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Pre-September Locality Headteacher Meeting, Thursday 27th August 9am.

We will be holding, as agreed back in July, a pre-school reopening Locality Headteacher Meeting on **Thursday 27th August at 9am**. It would be really helpful if every locality could be represented at the meeting, even if it is not by the usual representative.

Localities should agree on a representative and submit any issues, queries or matters to discuss to that representative prior to next Thursday, in order to inform their contribution to the meeting. Please let Deborah Anderson (Deborah.Anderson01@northumberland.gov.uk) know who will be representing the partnership.

The link to join the meeting can be found [here](#).

New Lead Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

As you may have recently read, there have been some changes in the Council's Cabinet following the resignations of Wayne Daley and Veronica Jones.

In light of this, Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson has been appointed as the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Young People.

DfE UPDATES

Summer GCSE, AS and A level results 2020: information for students

Information for students about GCSEs, AS and A levels and other qualifications in 2020.

The DfE has published a frequently asked questions for students receiving GCSE, AS and A level awards, and other qualifications in summer 2020.

It includes information on:

- AS and A level results
- GCSE results
- BTECs and vocational qualifications
- Higher education applications and clearing

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-gcse-as-and-a-level-results-2020-information-for-students>

DfE PRESS RELEASE: Action agreed to support students into preferred universities

Students have been given reassurances on university places and the Government is lifting the cap on medical courses for the coming academic year.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/action-agreed-to-support-students-into-preferred-universities>

DFE PRESS RELEASE: Pupils celebrate results that pave the way for future success

Over 600,000 pupils will receive their GCSE results, with increases in numbers of pupils taking key subjects like maths, science and Spanish.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pupils-celebrate-results-that-pave-the-way-for-future-success>

UPDATED: Student guide to post-16 qualification results: summer 2020

A guide for those receiving qualification results in England this summer: updated 19 August.

The DfE has updated the guidance for students to reflect the changes, announced on 17 August, to the way grades have been awarded this summer.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-guide-to-post-16-qualification-results-summer-2020?utm_source=ebd714d2-d355-4a9c-a0fa-6140ee8601e2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

NEW GUIDANCE: Your results, what next?

Understanding your qualifications grades this summer: updated 20 August 2020.

The DfE has updated this guidance to reflect recent changes in how grades will be awarded.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/your-results-what-next?utm_source=d4bede01-7316-4dfc-8c79-1b63350c3eb2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

NEW GUIDANCE: Changes to awarding of GCSE, AS and A level: guide for teachers, student, parents & carers: summer 2020

The DfE has produced new guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers following a decision to issue results using centre assessment grades or calculated results, where higher.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-awarding-of-gcse-as-and-a-level-guide-for-teachers-student-parents-carers-summer-2020?utm_source=96e78e36-1304-4aa4-8dc2-2367a2d5b2d8&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

UPDATED GUIDANCE: Requirements for the calculation of results in summer 2020

Requirements and guidance to exam boards in relation to the calculation of results to be issued for general qualifications in summer 2020.

This has been updated to include an annex on this year's application of the National Reference Test to GCSE results.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/requirements-for-the-calculation-of-results-in-summer-2020?utm_source=f6605bc7-beb8-4157-af85-0ba73f66c378&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

NEW GUIDANCE: Vocational and technical qualifications awarding, 2020

The DfE has issued new guidance relating to the awarding of vocational and technical qualifications in the academic year 2019 to 2020.

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vocational-and-technical-qualifications-awarding-2020?utm_source=e18c8354-56fb-4169-8390-d78ed2ef7def&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

UPDATED GUIDANCE: Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Protective measures for providers of community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings offering provision to children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The DfE has updated its protective measures guidance for the autumn term, making clear the position on group sizes and how providers can minimise the risk of children mixing outside their school bubbles. There is also additional content on music and performing arts, educational visits and shared resources.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=7b79578a-b994-42f8-99a7-71284c6a13db&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Guidance for parents and carers of children attending community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings.

The DfE has updated the guidance for the autumn term including new section to include a new section on live performances.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=5178f0a9-9b6d-42a2-aed1-4d9176c6c676&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Education in the Press

SCHOOLS WEEK: GCSE results 2020: Top grades soar, as nearly four in five pupils pass

The proportion of 7 or above grades handed to GCSE pupils in England has soared by over a quarter after the government U-turn to award teacher grades.

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/gcse-results-2020-top-grades-increase-with-nearly-four-in-five-pupils-achieving-a-pass/>

SCHOOLS WEEK: Top results at A-level almost double under new system

The proportion of A*s awarded to A-level pupils has almost doubled – revised results released yesterday show

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/top-results-at-a-level-almost-double-under-new-system/>

Mental health support over exam results season

Kooth.com is an online mental wellbeing community which was launched in Northumberland in June. It provides free, safe and anonymous support for children and young people between 11 and 25. Kooth has launched the #positivefutures campaign to help young people through the exam results season, which can be an incredibly stressful and uncertain time for many.

Kooth has produced an [exam support leaflet](#) aimed at parents and carers (please see attached) which can help with understanding results, keeping calm and planning options for the future if things don't go to plan. Kooth is also piloting a series of podcast programmes. The first one is out now on Spotify and is a brilliant discussion on self-esteem. If you have a Spotify account this can be listened to by [clicking here](#).

Please also keep an eye out for Kooth's #positivefutures campaign on social media where they will be sharing content, news and updates.

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/exam-support-brochure.pdf>

- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CDbL0PXiVqd/>
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/XenZone_UK/status/1290245617462083585
- FB: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=219106602747384>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6696014349565349888>

You can access our Exam support posters by [clicking here](#).

Managing COVID-19 In Northumberland Educational Settings Flowchart

I am delighted to inform you that, following headteacher requests, Karen Herne in Public Health has produced a 'Managing COVID-19 In Northumberland Educational Settings' flowchart poster. See the link below:

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Copy-of-Ed-flow-chart-v2-1-1.pdf>

RISK ASSESSMENT v3 – FIRST INCLUDED ON UPDATE 4th AUGUST

We have received a couple of calls from headteachers asking about the Risk Assessment version 3. This was included on the Update of 4th August but is reprinted below for information:

****IMPORTANT** [Covid19 School Model Risk Assessment](#) - Version 3 **IMPORTANT****

The latest revision of the model school risk assessment template is now available and can be accessed [via this link](#). This incorporates government guidance for schools fully reopening from September; however, it is likely that further revisions may be needed as further government guidance is expected later this month.

As with the last revision, the changes made to the risk assessment have been highlighted in green text to make the process of updating your own school risk assessment easier. Sections which can now be removed have been 'striked out'. Further information on the changes made are also detailed in the table at the end of the document.

Headteachers should ensure that the final version of their risk assessment is in place prior to the commencement of the Autumn term, following consultation with staff. A copy should also be shared with relevant unions.

Please ensure that previous versions of your own risk assessment are retained so it is clear what arrangements were in place within the school at any given time. Consideration should also be given, in the interest of transparency, to making a copy of your risk assessment available on the school website. This is something which the HSE has indicated they would expect to see; however, the final decision on this lies with the Head/Governing Body.

Previously issued school specific health and safety information can also be found on the [Corporate Health and Safety team area of the NCC staff portal](#).

The Corporate Health and Safety Team are able to provide advice on specific issues or concerns and can be contacted via healthandsafety@northumberland.gov.uk or by contacting one of the school health and safety advisors:

Amanda Young / Nigel Chopping / Bryony Smith / John Froud