



GRINDON HALL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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Principal: Mrs Joanne Maw

September Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope that your children have had a positive start to the new school year. I have been delighted with the warm welcome I have received from staff and students and I very much look forward to getting to know everyone over the coming months. Please find below a summary of the key events that have taken place during the month of September.

Congratulations to the outgoing 6th form and GCSE students who achieved such excellent results, especially given the high demands of the new examination specifications. We wish them every continued success as they further their studies or enter the world of work. We look forward to working hard with our current year 11s and 13s to secure their success next summer.

Welcome to new staff and students Miss Hayden (Y4), Mrs Leadley (French), Dr. Wilson (Science), Mr. Robinson (maths). We have many new children in school who have settled incredibly quickly and made an excellent start. Not only do we have increased numbers in Reception, we have also welcomed new students into Y7, the 6th form and many other year groups.

Improvements to the learning environment I am sure you will join me in expressing thanks to the many site staff who worked throughout the summer holiday to make improvements to the learning environment. There have been big changes to the layout of the Reception classroom, classroom moves and much in the way of general repairs and maintenance. The new glass doors in the reception will significantly enhance school security and safeguarding arrangements.

Assemblies Our assemblies have reflected on and celebrated our core values of respect, integrity, courtesy and honesty. In addition, we have reflected on the significance of International Day of Peace and following an assembly on European Day of Languages, staff greeted students throughout the day in a 'mystery language'. I must offer sincere thanks to Dr. Dunnett, whose support for the school has led to us welcoming many special visitors during the Friday Senior School Assemblies. Students have heard diverse stories of hope and positivity from a range of inspirational people, each with hugely motivational messages.

Other School Events

The RNLI visited school and hosted a range of presentations for primary students, who have enjoyed learning very important safety messages.

Sunderland City Council's Lifestyle, Activity and Food team are in school this week, hosting assemblies and drop in sessions in which students are given information about how make healthy lifestyle choices, and how to access the many free sporting opportunities within the city.

Year 7s watched a hugely entertaining drama presentation about sustainable travel; strong messages about protecting our environment but which also support the key messages of living healthy lifestyles.

Congratulations to our primary football team, who have had a very successful start to their season!

School Council members are now in place Congratulations to each representative who was democratically elected. The first meetings are taking place this week and there have already been many excellent suggestions put forward. This year our meetings will be shorter, but they will take place more frequently.

School Uniform A number of parents have been in contact to let us know that despite ordering in plenty of time, they have been let down by our uniform supplier. We will be looking into making significant improvements in this service in the future.

Governance structure As a school within a multi academy trust, our governance structure is a little different. Bright Tribe use 'Drive Teams' who perform the functions of a local governing body. As the only school within the MAT which has a Christian Ethos, we will create two Drive Teams, one being dedicated to enriching the Christian Ethos of the school. Meetings will take place once per term. I am delighted that two former governors have agreed to continue their support of the school by contributing to this team. Invitations have also been sent to other Christian Organisations to request their input.

Parental Feedback We are keen to continually improve communications between school and home. If there are any areas of school life that you think require our attention, please let us know by completing and returning the tear off slip below. We welcome all feedback that can help us to improve things for our children and young people. Alternatively, please feel free to contact us via the school website.

Parental Feedback: I would like the Senior Leadership Team to consider developing the following area of school life:

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Name (optional)

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