



Sherburn High School

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The STAR
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Dear parents, carers and students,

I hope you all had a very pleasant half term. As always we have lots going on at school which I thought I'd share with you.

Teaching and Learning Update: Independent Practice

Before half term, Ms Kirkham, Assistant Headteacher spoke to lots of year groups in assembly about our new teaching and learning strategy being used in all subjects.

To support our students with developing their resilience, stamina and ability to work independently, Sherburn High School is introducing Independent Practice. The purpose of Independent Practice is to enable students to spend dedicated time working to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of topics they are studying and to prepare them for internal and external assessments. Furthermore, this supports their learning in Post-16.

Students will complete carefully planned and structured Independent Practice tasks. These will take place at least once a week, for a minimum time, in silence. The use of silent work allows students to be focused and to be able to concentrate on their learning. Tasks will be used to strengthen existing schemes of learning and will be varied, testing prior and current knowledge. The tasks will take different forms and subjects may use Independent Practice for planning activities, knowledge tests, extended responses, or dedicated improvement work.

In order to ensure students are supported in completing their Independent Practice, the task will be carefully set up by the teacher with clear instructions and an opportunity for students to clarify any aspect of the challenge. Teachers may provide additional support for students such as model examples, writing scaffolds or word banks. Teachers will be able to use the Independent Practice responses to identify students for praise and where there may be misconceptions and barriers to learning, as part of marking and feedback.

This strategy will benefit our students as they develop the skills to become independent and proactive learners. We welcome your support with this new strategy and encourage conversations at home around what Independent Practice tasks students have completed, what students found went well and what students have recognised they need to improve next time.

Safeguarding our Students

To effectively safeguard all students, it is vital that we have up to date medical information. If your child's medical needs have changed, please contact admin@shs.starmat.uk to update us.

Industrial Action Update

The second day of planned industrial action by the NEU takes place on Tuesday February 28th. Given the number of staff who participated on day one, we will again only be able to partially open the school. I intend to update you with our plans later this week but apologise in advance for the inconvenience that this will cause and thank you in advance for your support.



Key Dates for your Diary

Monday 20 th February	Year 12 Progress Meetings at Sherburn High School
Wednesday 1 st March – Friday 3 rd March	School production of “Grease” – tickets available on ParentPay
Thursday 9 th March	Year 8 Progress Meetings and Options Evening
Wednesday 15 th and Thursday 16 th March	Proposed dates for NEU Industrial Action
Monday 20 th March	Year 7 Progress Meetings
Monday 3 rd April – Friday 14 th April	Easter Holidays

And finally...

Last half term our students impressed in the classroom, exam hall and on the sports pitches! I can't wait to see them return to the stage this half term and wish our Year 11s the very best of luck in their final weeks of PPEs.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support –

Kind regards,

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher

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