



Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

### Welcome to Year 8

This letter aims to provide you with an overview of year 8 in order for you to have an understanding of the curriculum, pastoral work and key dates for the year. You will be provided with further details of any specific events nearer to their dates.

#### Pastoral overview

This year there will be an emphasis on kindness, health and wellbeing of all pupils. We will be running a variety of active tutoring sessions for students to engage with and will be encouraging kindness around school to prepare them for the world of employment.

We are also focusing on students' Attitude to Learning (ATL) in lessons. We have five descriptors students are working towards. These are 'willing to learn, reflective, determined, resilient and self-motivated'. Students can demonstrate outstanding attitudes in class by being focused, paying attention at all times, producing high quality written work, setting themselves goals to achieve, not giving up and reflecting upon their work and actions in the classroom. As a year group, our focus this term is to demonstrate more reflective and resilient behaviours.

In addition to this, we are also focusing on employability skills. Students are learning to demonstrate key skills that will enable them to be successful in the workplace after full time education. We will be asking students to provide examples from both inside and outside of school when they have shown self-motivation, aspiration, accountability and entrepreneurial traits.

#### Key staff and contact details

The following table gives a list of the year 8 pastoral team. Please make contact with your child's tutor if you have any questions or concerns that relate directly to the welfare or progress of your child. If they are unable to assist you in your query, they will pass it on to the head of year. For any general or attendance queries please continue to use the [contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk) email or phone the main school reception. Our office hours are Monday and Tuesday 7.30am – 5pm, Wednesday and Thursday 7.30am – 4pm and Friday 7.30am – 3pm.

Mrs K. Gray is the senior leader who oversees all pastoral work and Miss A. Britten is the senior leader linked to the curriculum and achievement of this year group.

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact details</b>
Head of Year	Miss S Detton	<a href="mailto:sdetton@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk">sdetton@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk</a>
Tutor of 8.1	Mr N Strachan	<a href="mailto:nstrachan@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk">nstrachan@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk</a>
Tutor of 8.2	Mr S McKay	<a href="mailto:smckay@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk">smckay@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk</a>
Tutor of 8.3	Miss E Wood	<a href="mailto:ewood@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk">ewood@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk</a>
Tutor of 8.4	Miss R Grant	<a href="mailto:rgrant@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk">rgrant@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk</a>

All students spend the first 20 minutes of each day with their tutor; the table shows the overview of the activities undertaken during this time.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Positives and Negatives Attendance Planner signing	Assembly	Active Tutoring	Numeracy Ninjas/Employability	Quiz/Literacy/Current Affairs/Tune of the week

*This year your child will develop an understanding of the following topics through our active tutoring programme:*

- *Charity focus*
- *European day of languages*
- *Black History Month*
- *National Poetry day*
- *Careers*
- *Online safety*
- *Anti-bullying*
- *Equality*
- *Mental Health*
- *Assessment preparation*
- *British Values*
- *How to be a good citizen*
- *Employability*
- *Air pollution*
- *Plastic pollution*
- *Literacy and Numeracy*
- *Attitude to Learning*

## Curriculum

Year 8 is an important year for students as it enables them to build on all the knowledge and skills they gained in Year 7, whilst preparing them further for moving onwards towards the start of their GCSE years. It is essential that all students continue to study a broad and balanced curriculum which is complimented by their enrichment sessions. Please refer to the attached Year overview for a more detailed summary of the Year 8 curriculum. There are also Knowledge Organisers and further details available on the website.

As in Year 7, pupils are placed in sets for English, Maths, science, humanities, Spanish and IT. All other subjects are taught in tutor groups. We decide which set a pupil is placed in by using their formal assessment data as well as knowledge of their classwork. We regularly review the settings and make decisions to move pupils when necessary.

## Key Dates

The table below shows the key dates for this year group. All key dates can be seen on the school website under the information tab and further events may be added during the course of the year.

Date	Event
22 October 2019	Achievement Assembly
10 December 2019	Whole school pantomime trip
13 December 2019	Christmas Achievement Assembly
12 February 2020	Tutor Review Day
13 February 2020	Achievement Assembly
26 February 2020	Year 8 & 9 Vaccinations
27 February 2020	Year 8 Places of Worship Trip
17 March 2020	Year 8 Parents Evening
03 April 2020	Easter Achievement Assembly
20 April 2020	Year 8 & 9 Vaccinations
19 May 2020	Achievement Assembly
08 July 2020	Sports Day
14 July 2020	Achievement Assembly and Attendance party
16 July 2020	Summer Concert

We hope that you find this information useful and please do refer to the school website for further general information, the email address [contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk) to contact the school office or your child's tutor (as above) for individual queries.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J. Brown  
Head of School

Mrs K. Gray  
Senior leader – pastoral

Miss A. Britten  
Senior leader

Miss S. Detton  
Head of Year