



# Castlebrook High School



● INSPIRE ● CHALLENGE ● EXCEL ●

*Parr Lane, Unsworth, Bury BL9 8LP*

Tel: 0161 796 9820 Fax: 0161 796 3380 email: [castlebrook@bury.gov.uk](mailto:castlebrook@bury.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.castlebrookhighschool.co.uk](http://www.castlebrookhighschool.co.uk)

Academy Principal: Mrs S. Armstrong BA (Hons), NPQH

July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Another school year has flown by and the Summer break is about to begin. This term has been very busy and very productive. Standards right across the school continue to rise and our reputation as the school of choice continues to grow. The support we have received from yourselves, our Academy Councillors and our colleagues across the Shaw Education Trust has been fantastic and much appreciated.

## **Staffing Update**

I would like to publicly say a big thank you to all our teaching staff who have worked so hard to ensure your child has had a great school experience, and made good progress both in the classroom and through enrichment events such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, the musical production of 'Little Shop of Horrors', the Austria Ski Trip, sporting events, trips to Bury and Manchester Colleges, a local Mosque trip, Bury Hospice, the Biology and Geography Patterdale Residential, the Year 7 Residential and the Year 11 Prom to name but a few. Our enrichment offer next academic year is even better, so please look out for full details of our enrichment programme for 2017/18 which will be on our website in September.

All our staff went the extra mile in supporting our Year 11 learners to make sure they were fully prepared for their GCSE exams, putting on after school revision classes as well as revision sessions at weekends and during the Easter and Half Term breaks. We are confident all this hard work and dedication will pay off when the GCSE results come through in August 2017.

Several of our teachers are leaving us this Summer, some to move nearer home, some to promoted posts. We send our grateful thanks and best wishes for the future to:

Miss Griffin – KS3 Science Co-ordinator

Dr Tomlinson – Head of Chemistry

Miss Leach – English teacher

Miss Pickup – Teaching Assistant

We also wish Dr Quayle, our outgoing SENCO, a long, happy and healthy retirement.

The calibre of our teaching staff continues to go from strength to strength and I am absolutely delighted to welcome the following new staff to our school:

Mr Fair – Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching, Learner Outcomes, Progress and Achievement

Mr Nield – Head of Science

Mr Richardson – Head of Physics

Mrs Hill – Head of Chemistry (as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018)

Mrs Atkinson - SENCO (as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018)

Miss Hurd – Second in English

Mr Mulligan – Second in Modern Foreign Languages

Mr Fuller – English Teacher

## Attendance and Punctuality to School and Lessons

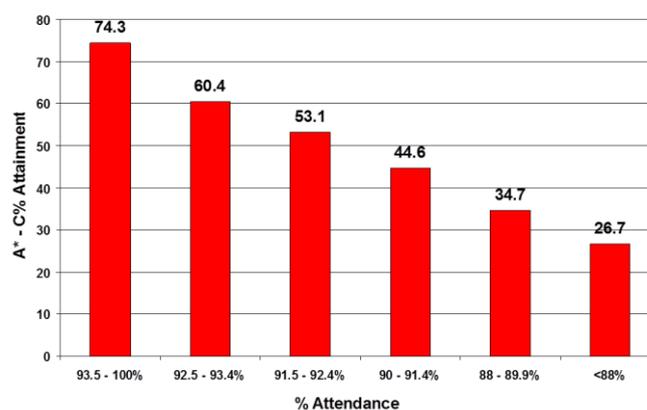
Whilst the vast majority of our learners have good attendance records, we still have work to do to ensure that all our learners are in school, every single school day. With twelve weeks school holidays a year, this expectation is perfectly reasonable and we are absolutely determined to secure 98% attendance next academic year. However, we cannot do this alone. We must have the support of all parents and carers to ensure that their child eats and sleeps well, keeps healthy and is ready to come to school 'Ready to Learn' with the right equipment and a positive attitude for each and every school day. We are confident that you will work with us to ensure that this target is met. Our revised Attendance and Punctuality policy will be on the website in September; in the meantime I would like to share with you some statistics which highlight how important full attendance at school really is for each and every learner.

The table below confirms just how much valuable learning time is lost by poor school attendance:

Attendance % for a year	Days absent	Hours of lessons missed
95%	9	45
90%	19	95
85%	29	145
80%	38	190
75%	48	240
70%	57	285
65%	67	335

The next table highlights the impact of days absent from school can have on academic performance. This is why every child needs to be in school each and every school day. And remember! Of the 365 days in a year, your child only needs to attend school for 195 to secure 100% attendance. As from September and in order to keep all learners and parent/carers fully informed of their child's attendance record, an attendance summary sheet will be sent home at the end of each half term. Every week your child's form mentor will review your child's attendance and update their planner. If there are any concerns about your child's attendance you will be contacted and asked to come into school to discuss how we can support you to ensure your child's attendance is securely good. I know this is a tough approach; however, it is a necessary approach. Every lesson lost is learning time lost and our attendance figures have to improve if we are to become the Outstanding school we know we can and must be.

### Chances of Success at GCSE



Starting the school day with an academic lesson will ensure that punctuality to school is a priority for all as no one will want to miss out on valuable learning time. We look forward to 100% punctuality to school as from September 2017.

### **Changes to the school day**

In order to ensure a sharper and more focused start to the school day, next academic year, morning registration will take place at the start of lesson one. Here is an outline of what next year's school day will look like:

<b>Time</b>	<b>Period</b>
<b>8.45 – 9.45 am</b>	<b>1*</b>
<b>9.45 – 10.45 am</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>10.45 – 11.00 am</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>11.00 am – 12.00 pm</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>12.00 pm – 1.00 pm</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1.00 – 1.45 pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1.45 – 2.05 pm</b>	<b>Form Period*</b>
<b>2.05 – 3.05 pm</b>	<b>5</b>

\* = statutory mark

Moving to one lunchtime will also enable a wide range of lunchtime activities to take place across the whole school.

### **Best In School**

As from September, all learners will be enrolled in our "Best in School" programme. This is a rewards system which is based on our highest expectations of attendance, punctuality to school and lessons, good behaviour and effort in class. Progress in all these key areas will be regularly reviewed throughout the school year and celebrated in "Best in School" assemblies. Of course it is great to be top of the class. It is also important that trying your best is recognised too, whatever your ability. Young people respond brilliantly when their improvements and achievements are recognised and I am really looking forward to giving out lots of certificates and gold stars!

### **Mobile phones**

Please note that as from September 2017, our rules with regard to learners using mobile phones will change. While the vast majority of learners follow school rules and do not use their mobile phones during the school day, a small minority continue to do so. From September 2017, if learners are seen using their mobile phone in school then they will be confiscated and placed in the school safe, to be picked up by their parent/carer the next day or as soon as possible thereafter. The Home School Agreement has been updated to reflect these changes and is available on the school website under the 'policies' tab. On the first day of term, all learners will be issued with 2 paper copies to take home, one copy to keep and one to be signed by parent/carer and child, to be returned to their form mentor by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Keeping Safe over the Summer**

There is a wealth of regularly updated Safeguarding information on the school website, in both the parent and learner zones, with information on everything from water safety around reservoirs, the dangers of the Giant Hogweed (which grows on the banks of the River Irwell and can cause blisters,

burns and even blindness) to online grooming. Please do take the time to keep up to date with our valuable safeguarding resources.

### **School Calendar**

Our 2017/2018 calendar will shortly be on the school website. There you will find all the key dates for the assessment, reporting and recording cycle, Parent/Carers' evenings, school events and so on. Next academic year will be even better!

### **First Day of Term – Tuesday 5th September**

Year 7s will start at the normal time of 8.45 am for registration. The Prefects and Senior Prefects will also be in at 8.45 am to support the new Year 7 learners. Year 8-11s will register at the later time of 9.45 am.

Have a wonderful Summer.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. Armstrong".

**Mrs S. Armstrong**  
**Academy Principal**