



Headteacher's report to Trustees

Spring – Summer Term 2023

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KEY OF ACRONYMS

DIR	Department Improvement Review
EAL	English as an Additional Language
EHCP	Education Health Care Plan
FAP	Fair Access Panel
FFT	Fisher Family Trust (Educational analysis tool)
FSM	Free School Meal
IDSR	Inspection Data Summary Report
KS	Key Stage
LAC	Looked After Child
LOtC	Learning Outside the Classroom
PAN	Published Admission Number
PP	Pupil Premium
RSL	Raising Standards Lead
SEN	Special Education Need
SIMS	Schools Information Management System (electronic record keeping system)
SPI	School Performance Indicator
TE	Teacher Estimates
WRAP	Wirral Respite Alternative Provision



HEADLINES

This term, the focus has been on making sure the examinations run smoothly and the students are kept focused and determined to succeed in their GCSEs and A-Levels, whilst at the same time, making sure all other key areas in the school are still effective, especially in the light of the recent change of leadership. I wrote to parents last week and explained that the school felt as if it is coming back to life, post-Covid. You will have seen that the number of activities: community, sporting, academic trips, field trips are now reflective of what we expect at Neston and the school is buzzing with excitement. We have worked hard to ensure the image of school in the community remains positive: the new blog with stories about staff and their lives beyond school; the newsletter and asking more parents to come into school and meet us. Standards and culture across the school remain high – and there is a new wellbeing policy that has been well-received by staff. I look forward to seeing the school reap the rewards from this policy: happy staff – happy children.

I have now turned my attention to year 10 mock examination performance, with data meetings taking place with each curriculum leader and plans for intervention, curriculum tweaks and mentoring being put into place. Neston never stands still.

Kirsty Cunningham
June 2023

Numbers on roll

	Total
Year 7	301
Year 8	300
Year 9	300
Year 10	303
Year 11	303
Year 12	131
Year 13	119
Totals	1757

Male students	971
Female students	786

Current Demographics

	SEN	EHCP	EAL	Young Carer	LAC	PP
Year 7	42 (14%)	11 (4%)	5 (2%)	2 (0.6%)	7 (2%)	60 (20%)
Year 8	39 (13%)	9 (3%)	6 (2%)	0	1 (0.3%)	60 (20%)
Year 9	48 (16%)	10 (3%)	7 (2%)	7 (2%)	4 (1%)	62 (20%)
Year 10	46 (15%)	8 (3%)	7 (2%)	5 (2%)	5 (2%)	48 (16%)
Year 11	47 (16%)	8 (3%)	5 (2%)	4 (1%)	4 (0.3%)	65 (21%)
Year 12	9 (7%)	0	3 (2%)	1 (0.7%)	0	0
Year 13	7 (6%)	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	238 (14%)	46 (3%)	33 (2%)	19 (1%)	21 (1%)	295 (17%)

SEND contextMost up-to-date National Statistics:

Overall proportion of pupils with SEN of all pupils in England in January 2022:

12.6% had special educational needs (SEN) support, but didn't have an education, health and care (EHC) plan (up from 12.2% in 2021) 4.0% had an EHC plan (up from 3.7% in 2021)

If we were to also factor in the 11 (0.6 %) children who have Top-up funding or IPFAs (dependent on the Local Authority in which they live) and add these to our EHCP numbers 46 (3%) as they are accessing, in most cases, a commensurate level of support due to resourcing levels, we would have 57 plans (3.2%).

Although we have 8 students with EHCPs leaving Year 11, 3 of those are hoping to come to our 6th Form next year.

In terms of Year 6 into 7 intake for 2022-2023 we have been consulted on 12 EHCPs to date. We have responded to 6 of these stating we cannot meet need but ultimately if 'parent preference' remains Neston High School, they will come to us.

I hope some additional context will be of interest when considering the data.

In year Admissions / Leavers

37 students have joined Neston High School since September 2022

Y7 x 4 (1 x LAC, 1 gained place through re-appeal from Sept 22 intake, 1 x FAP retro, 1 x W/L, 1 x managed move (no decision made))

Y8 x 7 (1 x FAP retro, 3 live applications, 1 x W/L, 1x managed move (failed), 1 x LAC, 1 x W/L)

Y9 x 9 (7 x W/L, 1 x FAP retro, 1 x managed move (failed))

Y10 x 14 (2 x LAC, 3 x managed move (2 successful), 2 x FAP retro, 7 x W/L)

Y11 x 3 (2 x FAP (Refugees from different countries))

36 students have left Neston High School since September 2022

Y7 x 4 (1 x Specialist School, 3 x moved school)

Y8 x 7 (3 x moved school, 1 x moved to specialist education, 1 x moved country and 2 x Elected Home Educated)

Y9 x 10 (3 x moved to Independent school, 1 x Home Education, 4 x move school, 1 x Permanent Exclusion, 1 x Children's Home out of area)

Y10 x 13 (2 x managed moves (Successful), 4 x moved to specialist provision schools, 1 x moved to Independent School, 2 x moved school, 4 x Elective Home Educated)

Y11 x 2 (1 x managed move (Successful), 1 x specialist school).

Dual Registered students

We have 6 x students that are registered at Neston High School and attend other school settings (3 x attending Wirral Hospital School, 1 x attending South Wirral High School, 1 x attending Ancora House and 1 x attending St John Bosco, Liverpool). We currently have 2 x students on dual subsidiary attending Neston High School (2 x EPCHS).

Year 7 September 2023 appeals

There are currently 85 students on the waiting list as they were not allocated places at Neston High School for September. There are 20 appeals arranged for 24th - 26th May 2023 but have had to be postponed as CWaC do not have enough panel members for them to be heard. These will now be held in June. There may be further movement (removals and additions) during the summer term.

Transition 2023

The extensive transition process for children moving from Year 6 to Year 7 is currently taking place with the Transition Team visiting the 28 feeder primary schools and to gather information about our new intake cohort to ensure that school is best prepared to support all students with their Transition from Primary to Neston High School.

For the 17 primaries with larger cohorts (5+ students) a team of staff and student ambassadors have attended these visits. Whilst detailed discussions about each child take place, a member of the Transition team and our ambassadors meet with the Year 6 students to tell them about life at Neston High School and to have Q and A sessions where the students can ask about routines, homework, what to do if... scenarios and general school life. Food has been a topic of great interest, as well as dreaded homework! Students have been reassured by the information and advice that our year 7 and 8 students have given on our visits.

Feedback on our visits continues to be very positive. Our unique selling point is that our 'Transition programme' is bespoke and personalised for every student who will be joining our community in September.

CURRENT ENROLMENT / ADMISSIONS

All information is collated and continues to be gathered from key links at the Primary School and external agencies.

We are pleased to be bringing back the New Parents' coffee morning on 30th June, which is always appreciated by our new parents, and an informal social event which welcomes our new families into our school community.

Houses and forms will be allocated before the Induction Day for students and Induction Evening for parents on 6th July. The new cohort of students are very much looking forward to their visit in July and Passport to Neston summer activities in August.

Sixth Form

Applications for 6th Form for September 2023 remain positive with 178 applications for a place in Sixth Form out of a year group of 303 (59%). Of these, 163 applications meet the entry requirements and 145 have put Neston as their first choice. In addition to this, 18 external applications have been received. A wide range of subjects are offered with the current most popular subjects being Business, Biology, English Literature, Geography, History, Maths, Media Studies, Psychology and Sports BTEC. More context of the applications is shown below.

Internal Applications	Y11 Applications	Meet Entry Requirements	First Choice	Entry Req & First Choice
Number	178	163	145	131
% of year group	59%	53%	48%	43%
Male	95	87	80	72
Female	83	76	65	59
CH64 applications	90	83	77	70
% of CH64 students	30%	27%	25%	23%
PP applications	31	23	28	20

External Applications	Number of Applications
	18
Male	8
Female	10

Of the internal applications received, 5 are classed as higher ability, 10 are middle ability and 3 have lower ability.

ATTENDANCE

Spring to Summer 1 Term 2023 – (03.01.23 – 26.05.23)

	Year %	PP %	Non PP %	Gap %	FSM %	Covid Positive Students
Year 7	95.05	91.39	95.05	3.66	90.63	6
Year 8	93.48	91.18	94	2.82	89.05	7
Year 9	92.53	88.95	93.56	4.7	85.14	6
Year 10	90.56	87.91	91	3.09	86.11	9
Year 11	84.98	77.31	87.16	9.85	71.7	10
Year 12	93.37	91.4	93.64	2.24	92.17	5
Year 13	51.82	N/A	51.82	N/A	46.65	2
Years 7 - 11	91.32	87.34	92.15	4.82	84.52	38
Years 7 - 13	85.97	88.02	86.6	4.39	80.2	45

SAFEGUARDING

Number of students at Child in Need	5
Number of students with a Child Protection Plan in place	7
Number of open TAFs	6
Number of TAFs – School led	6
Students on individual risk assessment	20

- We have implemented a new protocol in terms of safeguarding training for all new staff joining the school. On being appointed, all new staff are now expected to join the next available “Basic Awareness” safeguarding training led by the SCIE (Safeguarding Children in Education) Team at Cheshire West. They are provided with the relevant dates and a link to join the training virtually. This means that we can be more confident that staff across the school, particularly those who have joined mid-year have the appropriate level of safeguarding training. Feedback from new staff who have engaged in this training has been very positive, as can be seen by the comments below from one of our staff members:

“I thought the training was very informative and those that led the training were superb. The way they deliver such heavy information is excellent, clearly very passionate about what they do.”

- Neston High is now participating in the Local Authority’s DSL and TAF Supervision Pilot Programme. Doreen-Ann Newsome (DSL and TAF Supervisor) will be spending 1.5 days per month at Neston over the next 12 months conducting formal supervision for those working at the forefront of safeguarding. This extends beyond the core safeguarding team to the Pastoral Learning Mentors.

Each team member will have dedicated one-to-one time with Doreen-Ann over the 1.5 days to discuss key cases where we feel all avenues of support have been exhausted, or where cases are particularly complex and challenging. Minutes of discussions will be recorded along with action plans for next suggested steps. This is by far the most formal and structured form of supervision we have ever been offered as a school and represents a significant step forward in terms of support for those staff members working every day with our most vulnerable children and families.

- Our online reporting system giving students the opportunity to report instances of harassment or discrimination is now live and was launched to students at the end of April. The creation of this service was a direct outcome of a student voice survey on the theme of sexual violence and sexual harassment in schools. Students expressed that they would feel more confident to report incidents of this nature if there was a way of doing this online rather than face to face. Of course, our preferred method of reporting will always be for a student to speak to a trusted adult in person. However, given the very sensitive nature of some of these events, we understand the need for students to be able to record their views in writing as an initial step to getting the right help. The link to the reporting tool is now available on the student support page of our website, and is password protected so that it is only accessible to Neston High students with their school login details. Any reports submitted trigger an email alert to the most appropriate member of staff so that action can be taken to support the student involved.
- Laura Jolley, Head of PSHE, has attended recent training on best practice in delivering inclusive Sex and Relationships Education (SRE), a vital part of the curriculum in terms of keeping our young people safe. It is crucial that this training is now rolled out to all staff, particularly form tutors responsible for delivering RSE to their tutor groups. We are currently looking at dates in early September on which Laura will be able to deliver this training to staff in order to boost their confidence in teaching such sensitive but important topics to our young people.
- On Wednesday 7 June, Stuart Nuttall will be leading whole-staff CPD on the Prevent duty. The government has recently updated its Prevent training for schools, and there are now three online modules, the first of which needs to be accessed by all school staff in any role. The training is certificated and we will keep staff certificates on file as evidence for external scrutiny of our training procedures. The link to the training can be found here: [Prevent duty training - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/courses/prevent-duty-training) and we recommend that all Trustees also access "Course 1: Awareness Course".

Safeguarding training for Trustees is available by Edsential, and we would recommend all board members access the training offer available at the following link: [The Safeguarding Responsibilities of Governors - Online Training - Edsential](https://www.edsentia.com/training/safeguarding-responsibilities-of-governors)

BEHAVIOURAL REPORTS

Fixed Term Exclusions

Number of exclusion occasions

	Totals 2018- 2019	Totals 2019- 2020*	Totals 2020 - 2021 ♦	Totals 2021 - 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023
Year 7	7	1	20	3	1	5	2
Year 8	3	9	8	28	6	5	2
Year 9	18	11	17	31	16	14	13
Year 10	13	22	27	37	6	16	5
Year 11	19	16	39	7	6	11	1
Year 12	0	0	0	4	2	1	0
Year 13	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Totals	60	59	111	111	36	52	23
Total Number of Days	73	152	206	310.5	80	88.5	36.5
Total Number of students	46	43	66	96	29	41	19

*Includes the period of school closure from March – August 2020

♦ Includes the period of school closure from January – March 2021

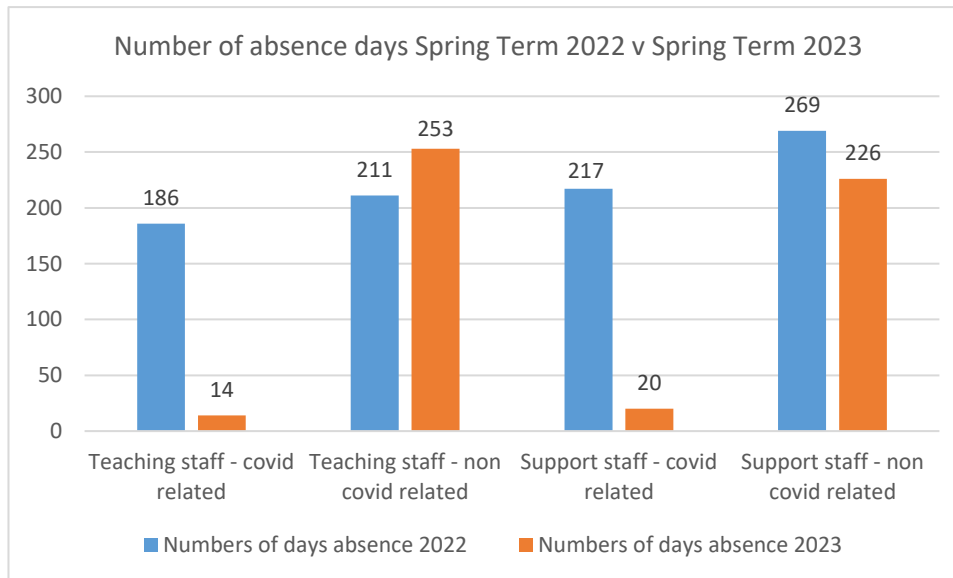
Number of Permanent Exclusions

1 permanent exclusion in October 2019
 1 permanent exclusion in May 2021
 2 permanent exclusions in May 2022
 1 permanent exclusion in February 2023

STAFF ABSENCE

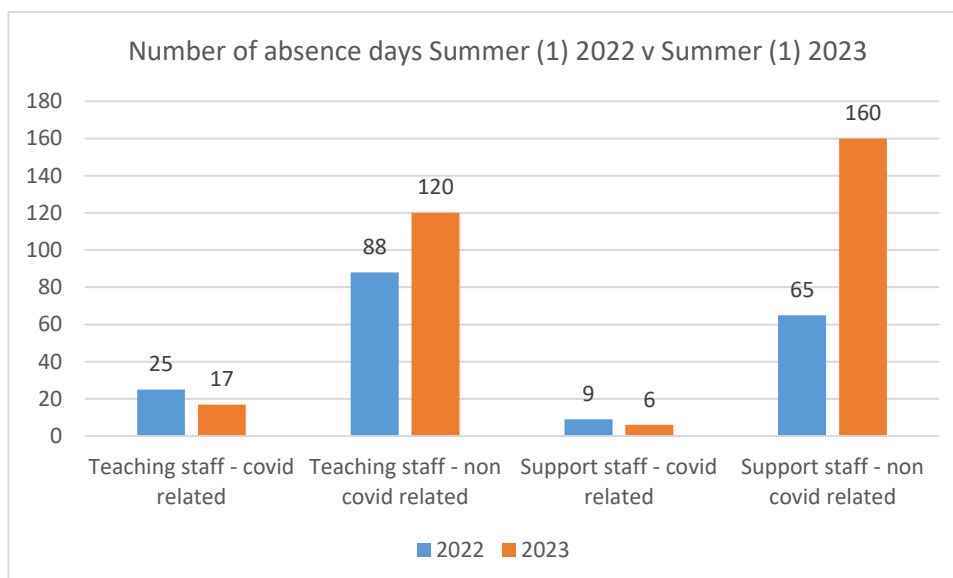
Although staff are no longer required to legally isolate if they test positive for Covid-19, school continue to follow guidance and ask staff to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days. For comparison, the information for the same period last year is shown (blue) against the same period for this year (orange).

Spring Term



During this period, we had 1 x support staff on long term absence and 1 x teaching staff (now retired) on long term absence.

Summer Term (1)



During this period, we have 3 x support staff on long term absence who are potentially not returning during the Summer Term and 2 x teaching staff on long term absence. A phased return has been arranged for 1 x member of teaching staff during Summer Term (2).

EXAM UPDATE

The exam series is well under way. Our meticulous preparation and processes have supported exceptional attendance levels at both GCSE and Post-16 exams. We have secured 100% attendance in all exams, with students displaying a positive and mature attitude throughout. We have increased our invigilator team this year to allow for our alternative provision students to sit exams at external venues, smaller classrooms and one to one roomings has been arranged in the most complex cases. This complex situation has been carefully strategically managed with some days having over 400+ students sitting exams. We have ensured all students entitled to exam access arrangements have been allocated the support required and all students have been offered breakfast in the mornings to give them the very best start to their exams. Parents have been kept well informed of student progress through the exam series and have provided outstanding support at home for our students.

PREMISES, HEALTH & SAFETY AND IT

Premises and Estates update

- *Site access* - Improvements have been sustained following a review of concerns that resulted in adjustments being made to our arrangements for access to and from the front of the site via all modes of travel from Raby Park Rd earlier this year.
- *Security* - A small number of security-related incidents have prompted a further review in May of how we currently use all five gated access points to the playground and ten door access points into the building. This has identified some further ways (currently being considered) to ensure we are taking all reasonable measures to ensure risks are minimised and school security is maximised.
- *3G pitch welfare and changing facility* – planning approval was received for the adjusted location and the initially presented costs for service connections were challenged as excessive which prompted the PFI provider to obtain a second estimate from another provider, costs have just been received this week at a lower cost.

Health & Safety update

- *H&S Safety Audit Review (Jan 2023 by CWAC)* - Action Plan update: from the 5 departmental areas sampled, 17 aspects had recommendations identified. Progress with these so far: The Science Prep room security risk item has been actioned by fitting code locks to entry doors and the tree safety survey was updated (April 2023) with works to 8 of the highest risk trees from the 20 trees or tree groups requiring pruning, dead wood removal or total tree removal completed.
- *Fire Drill* - was undertaken 14th October 2022 and was extensively reviewed, recommendations are to be shared with all staff at an appropriate future point before the next drill.

IT Update

- Following strategic review, a new electronic registration system linked to Arbor has been configured and installed in the Student Entrance and Reception. As a student arrives late, they are greeted by a member of the Attendance team or Receptionist. The student is then directed to use their ID Card or thumbprint to gain their registration mark. The mark, along with how many minutes late they were, are then automatically written to our MIS (Arbor). This saves roughly an hour of manual processing time per day - and ensures registers are updated in real time as the student arrives on site.
- IT Acceptable Use & Cyber Security policy is in review for September with a big focus on staff awareness training. We have an online training portal ready to be launched. This will offer 'bite-size'

modular training throughout the year, rather than a 'once a year' all staff twilight. An hour or two of yearly directed CPD time is to be allocated to this to ensure our staff are receiving the latest up-to-date cyber training through the year tailored to the everchanging threat landscape.

- In addition to the above, the first steppingstones for introducing Multi Factor Authentication to increase IT Security are about to be launched with staff. This will require staff to use a known staff device or access token to gain access to school systems remotely.
- We are on track to have our secondary fail-over internet line installed this term. This will add redundancy to our internet connection should there be any service issues on the primary line. Our reliance on cloud-based internet services to run the school was identified in our risk register, and this will help lower the risk.
- No cyber incidents to report.

Kirsty Cunningham
June 2023