



Headteacher's report to Trustees

Autumn 2022 - Spring Term 2023

CONTENTS

	Page number
Headlines	1
Admissions	2
Attendance	3
Safeguarding	5
Behavioural Reports	5
Staff Absence	6
Appendices list	7

KEY OF ACRONYMS

DIR	Department Improvement Review
EHCP	Education Health Care Plan
FAP	Fair Access Panel
FFT	Fisher Family Trust (Educational analysis tool)
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

Dear Trustees,

Once more, Education seems to be floating in the maelstrom of the national crisis around budgets and financial constraints alongside many other public sector organisations. The front-line impact to date has been day 1 industrial action taken by the NEU and the impact for us is that we had to commit to a part closure. Students from Year 13,12 and 11 maintained face-to-face learning and students from 10 through to 7 were supported by online resources. On the day, 26 teaching staff committed to taking industrial action, 1 teacher with childcare requirements and 1 teacher reporting as being ill on the day. A full risk assessment was completed and shared with professional bodies but the regrettable decision by Helms buses to not put on it's regular service and the train strike were events that had clear impact on our attendance figures. On the day Year 13 attendance was 73%, Year 12 was 74% and Year 11 was 69%.

Further disruption is forecast with a series of dates being published by the NEU, the next one being Tuesday 28th February, but critically as I outlined in my Autumn report - to date the government do not look like finding a solution and thereby other professional bodies have balloted on also taking industrial action. This may lead to joint unions committing to the same dates and leaving us in an unviable position to open or provide resources for students requested to be at home.

The complexity of the above scenario should not take away from the incredible work that is being done by all the staff to provide our young people the best opportunities for success. Financial constraints may mean that we are not able to be as adventurous or outward facing as we would like but in true Neston style, colleagues are reconstructing our curriculum, redesigning our pastoral systems and maintaining sharp focus on the school development plan in order to raise standards under the constraints of best value.

It has been a pleasure to see many Trustees once more in school in various meetings and in fact even on the above industrial action date we were to run our 6th Form Open Evening where we were able to showcase to our present Year 11 students and to a large body of young people and parents who attended from other educational settings.

At the Trustee meeting, on the agenda Trustees will be able to share updates from their linked meetings and SLT will use these as the springboard for next steps as we progress into the second half of the academic year.

Thank you for your ongoing support and challenge.

Keith Simpson

Numbers on roll

Year	Total
Year 7	302
Year 8	300
Year 9	301
Year 10	301
Year 11	303
Year 12	131
Year 13	120
Totals	1758

In year transfers – Autumn Term 2022

20 students have joined Neston High School since September 2022

Y7 x 2 (1 x place through FAP (LAC) and 1 x place from 2nd appeal re Year 6 into Year 7 (I T)

Y8 x 3 (1 x place gained through FAP (LAC), 2 x offered from W/L)

Y9 x 4 (4 x offered places from W/L)

Y10 x 7 (3 x places re FAP (1 on roll but will never attend) and 4 x gained from W/L)

Y11 x 3 (3 x offered place via FAP (1 x Ukrainian & 1 x Afghanistan)

21 students have left Neston High School since September 2022

Y7 x 2 (1 x on roll from Sept-Oct never arrived but left to go to another school in different Council due to D/V and 1 x no show in September)

Y8 x 4 (1 x left the country, 1 x EHE and 2 x moved schools)

Y9 x 4 (4 x moved schools of which 3 transferred to Birkenhead Independent School)

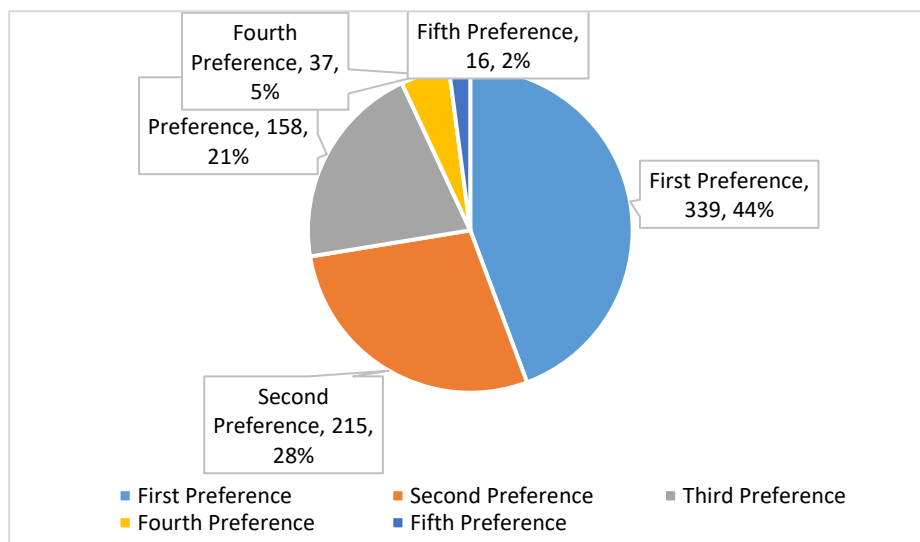
Y10 x 9 (1 x managed move, 3 x EHE and 6 x moved schools)

Y11 x 1 (1 x moved schools)

NB. All year groups continue to be at or above PAN with Year 12 and 13 continuing to meet our targeted 250 on role.

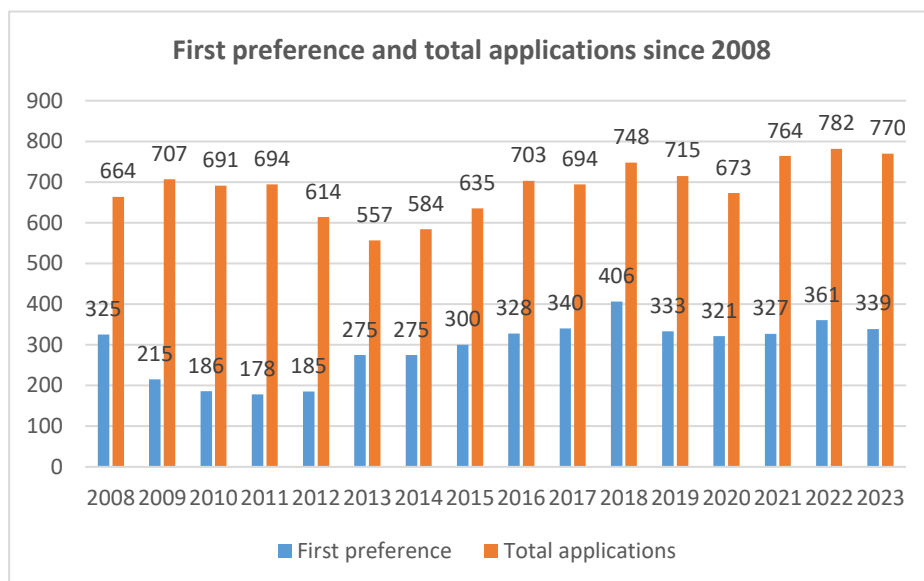
Year 7 applications for September 2023 intake

Application numbers remain high and there are currently 770 applications for places in year 7 for September, 339 of these have chosen Neston as their first choice. Places will be allocated in March when the transition activities with primary schools will commence. For context - Families in Wirral can choose up to 5 schools to apply for, Cheshire families are able to choose 3.



ADMISSIONS

Application numbers remain in line with previous years and clearly there is the possibility of families opting to go through the appeal process again this year as more applications have been received as a first choice than the PAN of 300.



In March, when we have received a full data set on the geographical dynamic we will once more understand the context of our CH64 cohort and the wider regional picture.

Agenda item 11 will overview present and future admission arrangements.

ATTENDANCE

Autumn Term 2022 – Full Term Data

YEAR	YEAR %	PP %	NON PP %	GAP %	FSM %
7	95.1	91.3	95.9	4.6	90.7
8	93.2	90.4	93.9	3.5	89.1
9	91.5	89.1	92.2	3.1	86.3
10	91.1	90.7	91.2	0.5	89.7
11	91	86.4	92.3	5.9	82.2
12	94.4	92.3	94.7	2.4	90.7
13	90.2	88.8	90.5	1.7	88.5
YEARS 7 - 11	92.3	89.5	93.1	3.52	87.6
YEARS 7 - 13	92.3	89.8	93	3.1	88.1

ATTENDANCE

FFT National Attendance Data

360 Attendance view

Neston High (8964100)

[Download PDF](#)

Time period: **Year To Date**

Comparator: **FFT National**



Attendance Headlines

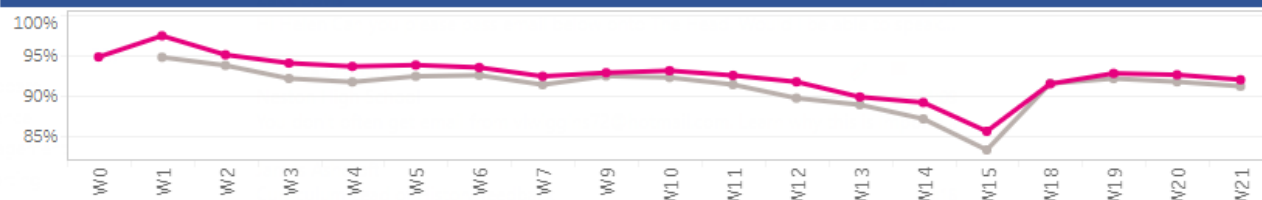
YEAR TO DATE

8/29/2022 - 1/27/2023

All Pupils	Girls	Boys	FSM6	Not FSM6	Persistent absentees
92.4%	91.5%	93.2%	87.6%	93.3%	24.4%

Weekly Attendance

School FFT National



Attendance breakdown

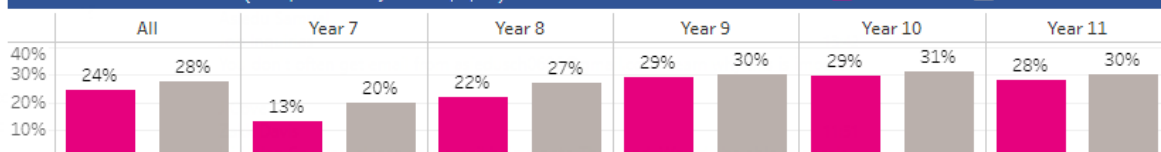
YEAR TO DATE

8/29/2022 - 1/27/2023

All Pupils	Pupils		All	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
All Pupils	1,506	School	92.4%	95.1%	93.2%	91.2%	91.2%	91.1%
		FFT National	91.0%	93.4%	91.5%	90.4%	89.8%	89.7%
		Difference	+1.4%	+1.7%	+1.7%	+0.7%	+1.4%	+1.5%

YTD Persistent Absenteeism (% of persistently absent pupils)

School PA FFT National PA



Attendance continues to be a critical strand of school improvement plan although as the above data shows, clearly this is a national issue that has been significantly impacted by the covid years.

The Local Authority annual inspection which took place on 9th January was concluded with a clean bill of health and only minor points to consider. As a school, we are reviewing our processes and practices in how we meet the DfE regulations as those ambiguity around students being marked as late or unauthorised. Can I formally thank all those leading the attendance strategies but also our attendance team who are working in very complex times to safeguard our young people and promote positive attendance.

SAFEGUARDING

Number of students at Child in Need

8

Number of students with a Child Protection Plan in place

4

Number of open TAFs

10

Students on individual risk assessment

19

BEHAVIOURAL REPORTS

Fixed Term Exclusions

Number of exclusion occasions

	Totals 2018- 2019	Totals 2019- 2020*	Totals 2020 - 2021 ♦	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Totals 2021 - 2022	Autumn 2022
Year 7	7	1	20	1	1	1	3	1
Year 8	3	9	8	4	15	9	28	6
Year 9	18	11	17	9	7	15	31	16
Year 10	13	22	27	9	21	7	37	6
Year 11	19	16	39	5	1	1	7	6
Year 12	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	2
Year 13	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Totals	60	59	111	29	46	36	111	36
Total Number of Days	73	152	206	59	117.5	134	310.5	80
Total Number of students	46	43	66	23	40	33	96	29

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

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

As the above data highlights and as previously been raised our current Year 9 cohort have deeply been impacted by the trauma of the covid years and although we have continued to support their global needs we are now looking to restructure our curriculum into year 10 in order to enhance greater literacy and numeracy learning in potentially smaller classes and offer a greater range of individualised alternative provision as significant students are being disadvantaged by SEMH (Social, Emotional, Mental Health) issues. Clearly this has implications on our curriculum design, staffing maps, budget forecasts and most importantly academic and personal outcomes for our young people. As a school we have applied via DfE to participate in the National Behaviour Hub strategy in order to network with other schools and build our processes and practices around best practice research. Further information to follow.

BEHAVIOURAL REPORTS

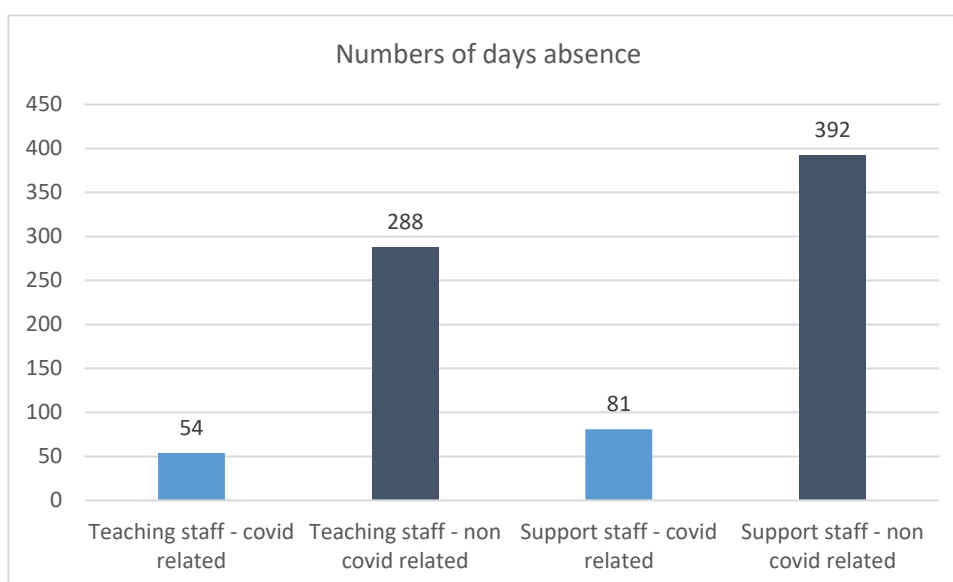
Number of Permanent Exclusions

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

Autumn Term 2022

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. This remains to impact staff absence however cases are not as high, and days lost have been affected more by other flu type viruses. During this period, we had 2 x support staff on long term absence and 1 x teaching staff on long term absence.



In order to support staff welfare, Trustee/Staff members C Vining and J Millington plus myself are now building further strategies and a proposed paper will be presented at the next Trustee meeting with the intention to ensure that we are doing everything we can to support all our colleagues and maintain high levels of staff attendance whilst recognising the undue pressures that are now forcing many to consider taking industrial action not only for pay but to protect the future of school workforce.

Keith Simpson
February 2023

APPENDICES

As requested at previous Board meetings – please find attached appendices with further information.

Appendix 1	CPD Model
Appendix 2	Enrichment Wednesday
Appendix 3	SSAT
Appendix 4	Literacy