

9 September 2016



Dear Parent/Carer

### **School Update**

Welcome back to the new school year. We can hear the collective sigh of relief as the pupils return to school and parents get some order back into life at home. It is exactly the same in my house!! This has been a hectic start to the new term as we have had a number of issues. I will start with:

#### **Transport.**

You may have seen the article in the Chronicle and Echo this week following complaints by parents to the Local Authority about the 'new IT system' that is (mis!) managing pupil transport. Whilst we have no input into the system we realise how stressful it can be and apologise on behalf of the LA. The Northamptonshire Special School Head Teachers will, as a group, be following up the issues with the LA Education Transport Department once it has settled down to voice our concerns.

#### **Parents/Carers collecting pupils**

This year we have seen a threefold increase in the number of parents collecting pupils at the end of the school day. This is creating chaos and making the area at the front of school unsafe for pupil, staff and parents alike. If you are collecting a child please PARK OFFSITE and walk into school to collect them. From Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September pupils who are being collected will be waiting at The Stage Door (round the back of school) and parents are requested to wait by the door until their child appears.

#### **Dogs**

As much as I love dogs I am aware that some people do not. We recognise that the dogs being brought to school at the end of the day are 'Assistance Dogs' who do a wonderful job with some of our young people but we must ask you to wait off site with them. A number of pupils (and staff) have such a fear of dogs it is affecting their enjoyment of school.

#### **School Meals**

Our new school chef and meals system has been a huge success this week and I am sure your child has spoken to you about them. Pupil feedback has included 'awesome', 'fantastic' and 'very, very tasty' The new menu is attached and will available on our website this week and will cover the weeks up to the end of December. We will notify you in plenty of time of any changes but we do hope to link the menus to specific theme days, festivals and celebrations.

Parent Pay should now be up and running. If you previously had login details you should be able to use the same passwords. New pupils will have a separate envelope coming home today giving user names and passwords to start payment. You should be able to book a day and make payment online but please let the office know if there are any issues.

---

Queens Park Parade, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, NN2 6LR Telephone: 01604 714098  
Executive Head Teacher: Miss S A Webb

Head of School: Mr M R Trundley Executive Deputy Head Teacher: Ms S M Wilkinson  
Email: [bursar@northgate.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:bursar@northgate.northants-ecl.gov.uk) Website: [www.northgate.northants.sch.uk](http://www.northgate.northants.sch.uk)  
Company Number: 07734360 Limited Company, Registered in England & Wales



We will also be putting some pictures on the website of the meals that have been served so you can see for yourself our new look. I can assure you the photos were taken onsite and not at the local restaurant!!

School staff, me included, are also enjoying the new meals – a staff slimming club may be open by the end of Term 1.

Thank you for your cooperation with all the above issues. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'SA Webb', is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Miss SA Webb  
Executive Head Teacher