



The Hayfield School, Hurst Lane,
Auckley, Doncaster, DN9 3HG
Headteacher: Lisa Fox
T: 01302 770589
E: office@thehayfieldschool.co.uk
W: www.thehayfieldschool.co.uk

26 October 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

It does not seem 8 weeks ago since we started the new school year. We were absolutely delighted with our GCSE and A Level results and we hope that the students who have now left are enjoying their new journey.

Y7 students have settled really well in their new surroundings and lots of them are getting involved in extra-curricular activities, which is really good for them and friendship building.

Y8 have enjoyed a trip to France and today we see off a group of students who are visiting Dusseldorf. Mr Carroll is in South Africa planning a great sporting and adventure tour for 2020. Keep an eye on twitter for updates.

I wrote to you earlier in the term to explain that we tragically lost one of our Y11 students. Many students have struggled with this and we have tried really hard to support anyone who has needed it. The Local Authority has supported us by sending in a team of counsellors. We are grateful to the Samaritans as well as other organisations. We continue to support those students who need our help. We urge you to always talk to your child about their worries and concerns. They do not always find it easy. We have enclosed some leaflets that might help you. We also follow a number of recommended organisations on twitter @hayfield_school. We will be updating our website over the coming weeks. It is a really difficult time for all concerned and particularly the family. In times like this it is hard to judge the right or wrong thing to do. Everyone has so many different views. We hope that you feel reassured that we have done our very best under very difficult circumstances. We are in touch with the family and hope to continue to support them as much as they need. At any one time we can be supporting students in school who struggle with bereavement and loss and this work is ongoing.

If I were to give parents any advice it would be to ensure you really know what your child is seeing on social media. Children communicate with each other mostly via social media. They say far more to each other than they would say to the face, taking out all the emotion and inference. This can be very challenging for students to cope with and often comments are misleading or not meant in the way they come across. As a parent of 3 teenagers, I know it is so difficult as they want privacy and we need to let them grow up. Please talk to them about safety issues and appropriate comments. We tell them regularly that we all leave a digital footprint for life. A further leaflet is enclosed to support.

Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations

These take place between 5 and 16 November. Please encourage your child to work to a revision timetable. I know that Miss Whetstone, Mr Barnes and Mrs Conroy have been working with them and giving plenty of support and advice how to do this. These examinations are really important for students so they know exactly what stage they are at but also for our teachers who will plan accordingly to ensure all gaps in knowledge and skills are covered. There may be some set/group changes after the exams so that teaching can be more targeted.

Key Dates:

26 October 2018	House Assemblies, Vote for Charities that the School will support in 2018-19
5-16 November	Y11 Pre Public Exams
9 November	Remembrance Day – Whole School
12 November	Y10 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening 3.30 – 6.30 pm
16 November	Children in Need/Charity Day
10 December	Y11 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening 3.30 – 6.30 pm
11 December	Character and Culture Curriculum: Hayday 3
19 December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner
20 December	Staff Charity Event: "Strictly Come Prancing" Whole School House Christmas Assembly School Closes 12.30 pm
7 January 2018	School Opens 8.40 am

Y7-10 Homework for Remembrance

Our wonderful history department has worked with our Character and Culture Lead and together they have planned some activities for Remembrance in the week beginning 5 November. Group Tutor time will be reflection and war

poems. Some key stage 3 lessons will focus on this topic. We wanted to build upon the theme of a poppy waterfall, as displayed in the Tower of London last year. We want to create this effect in our history corridor. Students have been given a copy of a homework task to be completed over half term. A copy of this is also enclosed. Staff and Years 7-10 will also be planting crosses. In maths they are working out how this can be done to mirror the effect of the battle fields and war memorial sites.

Character and Culture Curriculum: Diversity, Values, Wellbeing, Aspirations

We have a comprehensive 'Character and Culture' curriculum part of which tackles mental health. We take it very seriously. However we often find that this can be a label that can be misinterpreted. Adolescence can really be a difficult time for young people. We need to be able to talk to them about resilience and the difference between mood swings, worries, feeling sad, anxiety and mental health. We will review all the work we do regularly and build in things to meet needs as they evolve.

Last year the students were keen to create a production for Young Minds. For those who saw this production in the summer you will know it was a very sensitive and emotional performance and I thank the staff and students their work on such a sensitive and personal issues about mental health.

This year's school summer production will focus around diversity and LGBT. We will handle this carefully and sensibly with curriculum activities supporting and leading up to it.

Community Projects and Extra Curricular Activities

We always want to encourage our students to stay at school and get involved in activities. Please see the website for the programme. We launched a Leeds Rhinos Netball Hub on Friday evenings for secondary school age girls. This runs on Fridays from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm in school term time. We will soon be launching a similar hub for our primary school partners. Watch this space. It will run at New College Doncaster 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm on Fridays. Last week we had a guest coach in school and at the hub, Natalie Haythornthwaite. She is an international netball player and she brought in her Commonwealth Gold medal and gave an inspirational speech to many of our emerging athletes.

We are in talks with Doncaster Knights about launching a Rugby Academy for Years 5-8. We will keep you informed. Cheerleading is going well and is well attended.

"Perform" takes place every Monday. Many students are involved in this.

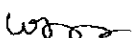
Communicating with or about our School

At our school we try really hard to live by our code of Kindness and Decency. We appreciate and value that people have different views and opinions. We also know that sometimes we have to give some tough messages especially to keep the environment safe and to maintain our very high standards. I make no apologies for this. We do not always get things right because we are human beings working with human beings in a very fast paced environment. We do however try really hard to make school positively memorable for young people for all the right reasons.

I am very sad to report that a small minority of unhelpful comments have appeared on social media about the school and we have had also had some complaints relating to the perception of how we tackle mental health or behaviour in school. Some of these complaints have been made without the true facts. I would like to make it very clear that all parental complaints are fully investigated. Our complaints policy is very clear on the way this process works. We will not tolerate vexatious complaints, aggressive tones or language, nor malicious gossip. Too often the facts are incorrect. I feel very protective over my staff who I know work really hard. They know me well. They know my expectations. They know I am fair. They know I will challenge or support in any situation where I think my staff have been less than fair. I feel very strongly about ensuring your child is well cared for and happy at school. Our preference is to work in partnership with parents and carers but the school will not tolerate poor behaviour from students or parents.

Have a lovely half term. Enjoy time with your children, Year 11 work hard please.

Kind Regards



Lisa Fox
Headteacher

Keep up to date on @Hayfield_school