

12 April 2019

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

This term has been hectic as usual. I would like to thank the staff and students for living up to our high expectations.

### **Progress and Achievement**

Year 11 are working really hard and focusing on the up and coming GCSE Examinations. The school has invested a considerable amount of time running independent study lessons. Miss Whetstone has done an excellent job of coordinating this. She has launched an online GCSE 'Hub' with a subject page for each area full of the best revision resources, hand-picked by teachers of each subject, as well as parental and nutritional advice, plus general revision aids such as blank mind maps and revision planners. The success of this has been recognised nationally as other schools have contacted us and are using it.

We have done an extensive piece of work around teaching, learning and curriculum supported by evidence based research. As a result of this we:

- will introduce a suite of high quality vocational courses alongside our suite of academic courses for Key Stage 4 from September 2019.
- have piloted reciprocal reading with a group of Year 8 students which will now be rolled out further in Year 7 and Year 8.
- will pilot traditional 'lecture' style lessons at Key Stage 3 in a few very limited areas.
- have embraced STEM as a large project, working with McAuley School and the STEM Enthuse partnership programme with Eton Electricals. As a result the Maths Department will teach a STEM lesson to Year 7 and Year 8 next year where they will ensure that any mathematical concepts are taught consistently well across the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Geography).
- have introduced a mastery curriculum in Maths at Key Stage 3 and this is working really well.
- introduced Sociology in Year 7 and Year 8. This is in response to feedback from the English Department who report that the students who study GCSE Sociology have a head start in English Language. We want to introduce psychology as a pilot to address mental toughness and wellbeing.
- are including Sport and Exercise Science as part of the Science curriculum. A vast number of our students lead very active lives. Areas covered will be physiology, psychology, biomechanics, health, wellbeing, nutrition, and statistics.
- are investigating adopting restorative practice across the school from September 2019.
- are removing 'Isolation' and are introducing 'Re-engage'.
- have decided to teach English Language and English Literature as two discreet subjects. This, we hope, will help students understand the differences and the importance of both. Drama will be very closely aligned with English Literature.
- have trialled Google Classrooms. Student and staff feedback is excellent.
- are developing a new Homework Strategy for September 2019.
- will launch Year 9 'pre-season' training to commence mid-May. This is our programme for starting their GCSE Options.

## **Character and Culture**

Our Character and Culture Raising Standards Leaders (RSL) continue to work closely with students; staff and parents to ensure high standards and expectations are met.

The Character and Culture curriculum programme continues to operate successfully on a weekly rolling programme. Our HayDays form a significant part of this programme. You may have seen recent tweets about this. The last HayDay programme involved:

Year 7 - Walesby Forest, teambuilding

Year 8 - Resilience, walking in the Peak District

Year 9 - Science, Yorkshire Wildlife Park

Year 10 - Humanities, Thackray Medical Museum or Sheffield City

Year 11 - Study support/intensive revision

In addition 102 students participated in the Duke of Edinburgh 'pre camp' in the Peak District, supervised by 10 staff. This is a wonderful achievement and I am so proud that staff are prepared to give up so much of their personal time because they see the value in such a great programme for young people. The students were a credit to the school and their families.

## **Wider Curriculum/House System/Charity**

The house teams are led by Mr Machin. He works closely with the House leaders: Mr Bullers, Mr Carroll, Miss Kelly and Miss Lovell as they continue to raise the profile of the chosen school charities through a variety of fundraising methods: Young Minds; Children in Need; Dementia UK; Cancer Research UK. The Christmas Market event raised an astonishing £1500. This was a fabulous event which succeeded in bringing the local community and businesses together. Strictly Come Prancing (the staff performance) also proved a huge success, raising just over £1300. I myself starred in this and felt utterly ridiculous but as long as the students enjoyed it!

The House teams are now focusing their efforts upon the Year 7 camp. This was hugely successful last year and students are already excited about what may be in store for them! Staff are not looking forward to how little the students sleep! Last year was wonderful and we hope we can emulate that.

## **Sport**

Work will start next term on re-surfacing the sports pitch and polymeric area. This will be transformed into a high standard multi sports training area. Two 5 a-side 3G pitches will be formed on the current tennis courts.

Our sports provision remains a real strength of the school. Students commit to training after school and really enjoy playing competitive games. This term we had a ski trip and a hockey tour to Amsterdam. We are blessed with some amazing hockey players. Work is underway planning a sports tour to South Africa in the summer of 2020. I know lots of fundraising activities are going on to support this chance of a lifetime.

### **The girls:**

Our work with Leeds Rhinos netball has gone from strength to strength. So much so that we need to double our groups from 2 to 4 next year. A direct result of this can be attributed to Kath and Emily Coulter who have supported this initiative and worked with the Rhinos and our primary schools. Last week they entered their first tournament in Leeds and did really well.

The girls triumphed as champions in the Doncaster Football mini league and champions in the Key Stage 3 badminton league.

### **The boys:**

The table tennis teams (represented at every age group) just can't stop winning. Football results are less consistent so I have told the PE department that we need to get Gareth Southgate in for some hot tips. More importantly there is a boys team in each age group. The boys are also badminton champions.

### **Staff**

In January we welcomed two new English Teachers, Mr Turner and Miss Drury (a former Hayfield student). They have both settled really well and are already very well respected by the students. We welcome Mrs Hunt (Music) back after her maternity leave.

### **Hayfield babies...**

Congratulations to Mrs Food (English) who gave birth to a baby girl in February and Mr Allen who also became a new dad to his baby girl. We wish Mrs Linley (English) all the best as she embarks on her maternity leave.

### **Staff moving on...**

Mrs Langham (Science) has left the school after 11 years. We wish her all the very best. She sends her best wishes to staff and students. Mrs Reidy (Director of MFL) left the school and she wishes the students and staff all the very best as we do her.

### **Some key dates:**

13 May – 18 June 2019 GCSE Examinations  
25, 26, 27 and 28 June 2019 School Performance 'Abbey Brick Road' embracing and celebrating diversity  
26 – 28 June 2019 – Year 7 Camp  
1 July 2019 – HayDay  
4 July 2019 – Year 11 Prom  
1, 2 and 3 July 2019 – Year 6 Transition Programme  
12 July 2019 – Whole School Sponsored Walk (House Event)  
16 July 2019 – Sports Day  
19 July 2019 – School Closes for the Summer Holidays at 12.10 pm  
22 July 2019 – Training Day  
22 August 2019 – GCSE Results

Please note that next year's 5 training days have not yet been confirmed but I can tell you 3 dates:

Day 1 Monday 2 September 2019  
Day 2 Tuesday 3 September 2019  
Day 3 TBC  
Day 4 TBC  
Day 5 Monday 20 July 2020

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Easter. Year 11 please continue with your strong work ethic and work really hard over Easter. It will pay off.

Best Wishes



Lisa Fox  
Headteacher