

19 December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer and Student

Progress and Achievement

We were delighted with our GCSE results this summer:

- On average students made one third of a grade higher progress than the national average.
- The average attainment over 8 subjects was a grade 5 or above.
- 52% of students achieved a grade 5 or above in both English and Mathematics.
- 79% of students achieved a grade 4 or above in both English and Mathematics.
- 84% of students made 4/5ths of a grade more progress in both English and Mathematics than their Y7 entry point suggested they should.

Year 6 Transition Day – Shakespeare and Science

On Wednesday 23 October 2019 we hosted the first transition event of the year as we welcomed Year 6 students from our primary pyramid schools. The day was themed around Shakespeare and Science and saw students engage with forensic science to solve a murder through our very own CSI Hayfield. Students spent the rest of the day acting out scenes from Shakespeare and performing sketches to persuade us of his enduring relevance in 2019. They even got to witness several English teachers perform their favourite Shakespeare speeches! Students and staff alike had an excellent day and cannot wait to come back up for their next transition event in the summer term.

Lectures

The start of term in September saw the new lecture style lessons for GCSE English Literature begin for our elite 60 students in both Year 9 and 10. Students have spent time developing their note taking skills to gain confidence in what is a university style method aimed at pushing them to succeed at the highest levels in the subject. The trial has been successful so far, with some outstanding work produced and students engaging with the texts on a sophisticated and mature level. On Monday 21 September 2019 we welcomed four members of the governing body to watch a lecture on A Christmas Carol delivered to Year 9. The lecture project has already generated interest from other schools in Doncaster and will form part of a research project looking at raising boys' attainment in English throughout this academic year.

Haydays

Our two Haydays have been very successful and saw a variety of activities across all Year groups at The Hayfield School. Year 7 were involved in Team Building tasks (including a murder mystery and an escape room!) which brought new tutor groups together to create an identity and get to know each other. Year 8 held a Democracy Day where they were introduced to all aspects of the voting system. They formed political parties, elected leaders, and created manifestos. The students then staged an election and voted for their candidates. Year 9 and 10 students had a series of talks from a range of different employers and a variety of different

sectors to get them thinking about the skills required for careers. We were pleased to welcome staff from Yorkshire Wildlife Park, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Go Green Transport, Doncaster Foodbank, Supported Living South Yorkshire and Opportunities Doncaster. Year 11 students were out of school; 70 students went to Burbage for a river study as part of their Geography GCSE; the rest of the Year group went to Go Ape in Nottingham for a resilience and team-building day.

Mental Health and Wellbeing day

The INSET day on 4 November 2019 focused on positive strategies to promote good mental health and wellbeing. The sessions on the day were delivered by Worth-it Positive Education who trained all staff, including teachers, support staff and governors. The sessions were lively and engaging, allowing staff to work through a range of strategies to equip students with the skills required to build resilience and develop positive relationships with others. There was also a workshop delivered for parents and carers, which focused on positive language for wellbeing and helping children maximise their success. Follow-up sessions will also take place in January in the form of training for 40 students, who will become our positive mental health ambassadors at The Hayfield School.

School Systems Update

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement we are currently reviewing and updating all of our school communication systems. Communicating effectively with our parents and students is of great importance to us. We wish to ensure that all school communications are received in the simplest and most efficient manner possible. We have therefore started to introduce the SIMS parent app. Many of you will have received a message and relating email already asking you to download and set up the app in order that you may check the details that the school holds about you and your children; this is just the start. Over the coming months, we will be opening different aspects of the SIMS parent app allowing you a greater insight in to your child's experience at The Hayfield School. Our ultimate aim for the future is the movement of all school communications over to the SIMS parent app. If you have not yet received an invitation email or are experiencing difficulties setting the SIMS app up, please send an email to simsparent@thehayfieldschool.co.uk

Chartwells – school lunches

We would like to thank Chartwells for responding really positively to our feedback and review. It is good to see an increase in the take up of school lunches.

Character and Culture

Please view our twitter account @hayfield_school where you can scroll through the latest activities our students have been involved with. We follow some useful organisations which students and parents might find helpful and supportive.

We are proud to celebrate our fundraising achievements for Children in Need, but we also recognise this is a hugely difficult time for many families across the borough that have been affected by the floods, including our own staff members. To this end, the students and staff have decided that they would like the money raised through our Christmas extravaganza 'The Hayfield Games' to be donated to the Doncaster Floods appeal.

Zebra Crossing

After many years of lobbying we finally have a zebra crossing outside school. We would like to thank all those involved in supporting this: Auckley Parish Council, New College and Highways Department.

Sports Development

The work on the multi surface sports pitch and new 3G area is now complete and is fully operational. Students are enjoying the range of sports that can be delivered in these areas.

Social Media

As you will be fully aware, the internet has become a powerful tool to connect and to share ideas and opinions. In recent years, social networking sites such as Facebook have grown in popularity and many people use them to communicate with family, friends and others.

The vast majority of people who use social networking appreciate the implications of making unfounded, malicious or vexatious comments about individuals and organisations. However, like other aspects of society, there are people who disregard the rules and instead choose to exploit social media in order to bully, undermine and misinform on issues of real significance and concern.

Recently, there have been a number of high-profile cases in the media where people have used the internet to intimidate and bully others. These have been investigated by the police and, in some instances, have led to criminal prosecutions.

As a school, we are absolutely committed to keeping children safe and promoting the highest standards of education. As with any large organisation, however, it is inevitable that parents and/or carers will on occasion wish to raise a specific concern regarding their child's education or safety. We passionately believe in the power of partnership between school and home and ask that any concerns be raised directly with the school rather than taking to social media. If having raised concerns with the appropriate member of staff you remain unsatisfied, we have a robust Complaints Policy available to view on the school's website.

The school uses its twitter account to share with parents and carers the other side of school life. As parents you, like us, expect high quality learning in the classroom, but as a school we feel strongly about sharing with you the other side of school life, the things that shape our character and culture. We want students to have good memories of their experience of school. We want them to say "do you remember when...". Occasionally it will be used for an urgent message and we hope we will never have to use it as part of an emergency plan. From time to time we will retweet posts from other organisations and articles that we think may be helpful. We follow some really good organisations that can offer support to children and families.

If you want to respond to our tweets, we welcome that, but we kindly ask that this is in a positive way. As adults we have a duty to act as 'digital role models'. One way in which we can all do this is to show respect and provide a right to reply through official processes and procedures. This supports the work we do with our students on anti-bullying and how to use social media responsibly. No post is private. It leaves a digital footprint.

Please be in no doubt that the school will respond robustly against any individual who uses social media to make unfounded, malicious or vexatious comments with an intention to undermine and misinform.

Staffing

We say thank you and goodbye to some lovely staff:

- Miss Bennett, Cover Teacher, who secured a post in West Yorkshire, closer to home.
- Mrs Lindsay, English Teacher, who has secured a change in direction and will lead Teaching and Learning in Adult Education.

- Miss Guy, Safeguarding, who is currently in her second year studying for an MSc Occupational Health.
- Miss Cranston, Technician, who has set up a painting and decorating business.

Other staff news

- Mrs Conroy takes up the position of Designated Safeguarding Officer from January 2020.
- Mr Barnes Year Leader Y11 (formerly Year Leader for boys in Y10 and 11).
- Mr Thundercliffe Year Leader Y10.
- Miss Tompkins Year Leader Y7.
- Mrs Lowe will lead the curriculum for Y7 and Y8.
- Mrs Cope has joined the Behaviour Support Team (formerly Deputy Safeguarding Lead).
- Mrs Pratt will join the school as an English teacher in January 2020.

Congratulations to the following staff who have welcomed new babies into the world:

- Mrs Lugg (boy).
- Mrs Spotswood (girl).
- Ms Whetstone (boy).

Dates

Monday 6 January 2020 – school opens

Friday 31 January 2020 – training day (school closed to students)

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Stay safe.

Best wishes



Lisa Fox
Headteacher