



5 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your family had a restful period over the half term holiday. We had a number of visitors in school during last half term, including colleagues from City of York Council, a headteacher and senior members of staff from other schools. All of them commented on how settled and purposeful school was, both in lesson time and at social time. We were already pleased how students had returned to school this academic year but it was good to have this confirmed by external visitors.

### COVID-19

We only had a small number of positive cases of COVID-19 amongst students and members of staff over the last half term, but did see a slight increase in cases towards the end of this period. In line with the guidance from the Director of Public Health that I sent out on Friday 22 October, we are continuing to wear face masks in communal areas in school. Please can you ensure that your child brings a face mask to school each day (unless they have an exemption) so that we don't have to hand out disposable masks for them to wear. We are also continuing with handwashing on entry to school and before eating, ensuring classrooms are well ventilated and providing enhanced cleaning throughout the school day.

Please continue to support your child in completing regular lateral flow tests each week. If your child does have symptoms of COVID-19, or has a positive result from a LFT, they should stay at home, take a PCR test and self-isolate until the result of the PCR test is known.

### Changes to staffing

Mrs Walshaw has left school to pursue a new career path outside of education. We wish her well in her new role and know that she will be missed by many students who she has supported during her time here.

We have made some changes to the pastoral team that impact on the Year 7 and Year 9 team as we have appointed a new colleague to the team. To avoid confusion, please note that Mrs A Blacker is currently on maternity leave, whilst Mrs S Blacker has joined the team!

Year Group	Progress Leader	Pastoral Manager
7	Mr T Day	Mrs S Blacker
8	Mr G Middleton	Mrs E Crotty
9	Mr H Kirwin	Mr S Decaro
10	Miss D Shepherd	Ms K Foster
11	Mrs P Dale	Miss C Cambridge

**HEADTEACHER:** Mr David Hewitt, BA (Hons), NPQH

**DEPUTY HEAD:** Mr A Haigh, BSc (Hons)

**DEPUTY HEAD:** Ms C Mann, BA (Hons)

Three new members of staff have joined us this half term and we are looking forward to working with these colleagues:

- Ms M Martinez           Teacher of Spanish and French
- Mrs K Day                SEMH Support Manager
- Mrs J Smailes           Teaching Assistant

### School Events

We will be holding our annual Remembrance Day ceremony on Thursday 11 November in school and will share further information about this with you on the day. Poppies are on sale each morning in form time if your child wants to buy a poppy or make a donation.

Monday 15–Friday 19 November is Anti-bullying week. We will be doing some anti-bullying work in form time during this week and will also be raising money for the Anti- Bullying Alliance. Students are encouraged to show their support for this work by wearing odd coloured socks on Friday 19 November and donating £1 on the day.

A number of students from all year groups have been involved in a litter picking event on the morning of Friday 5 November in New Earswick. This is part of the work on community that our Student Leadership Team have been involved in this year. We were delighted that a large number of our students volunteered to be part of this event and wanted to make a positive difference to their local community. They collected a large amount of litter and had lots of positive feedback from members of the community.

### Car Parking

We have really appreciated the support of parents and carers in keeping the front part of the school generally free from cars at the end of the school day. As the weather takes a turn for the worse, we often see an increase in the number of parents/carers entering this area to pick up their children. Please do not enter the school grounds, in a vehicle, between the times of 3.00pm and 3.30pm, to allow for the safe departure of students and school buses.

### Key Dates

Please find a list of key dates for this half term attached. Please note that following the success of online Parent/Carer evening last year we are continuing with this system this year. Further details about each evening will be sent out to parents/carers of the relevant year group in advance of these days.

Thank you for your continued support for the school. If you require any further information about the items above, please contact your child's pastoral team in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Dave Hewitt  
Headteacher

### **Key Dates – Term 1b 2021/22**

Wednesday 10 November	Governor Pay Committee
Thursday 11 November	Post 16 Open Evening
Wednesday 24 November	Governors FSR Committee
Thursday 25 November	Y7 Parent/Carer Evening
Tuesday 7 December	Celebration of Achievement
Wednesday 8 December	Governors SCC Committee Meeting
Thursday 9 December	Y9 Parent/Carer Evening
Monday 13 December	Christmas Concert
Wednesday 15 December	Governors T&L Committee Meeting
Friday 17 December	End of Term – school finishes at 12.15pm
Monday 3 January	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4 January	Staff Training Day
Wednesday 5 January	Term starts for all students at normal time