



10 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We've had a great week back in school and we have been really pleased with how students have returned to their learning. Students look really smart in their new Year Group ties and have been wearing their facemasks sensibly in communal areas. Thank you for all you have done to help get your child ready for school.

It has been a real pleasure to see teachers teaching in their specialist rooms, and students being able to access specialist equipment and resources again, after we were 'bubbled' in year groups last year. Year 7 and new Sixth Form students have settled in really well and have been well supported by existing students. There were lots of happy faces when I went around Year 7 lessons at the end of the day today.

New Teaching Staff

We have a number of new members of teaching staff who have started with us this term:

- Mr Middleton Head of Year 8 and PE teacher
- Miss Bevan History teacher
- Miss Brett History and Geography teacher
- Mrs Cooper History teacher
- Mr Echevarria RE teacher
- Miss Holdstock English teacher
- Miss Shirley English teacher
- Mrs Stapleton KS3 teacher

COVID-19 Testing

Please continue to support your child in taking Lateral Flow Tests at home. Further testing kits will be issued to students we have consent for early next week. Information about testing, and giving consent, will be sent to Year 7 parents/carers so their children can continue testing following the initial tests taken before the return to school. If your child has a positive Lateral Flow Test they should isolate until they have had a confirmatory PCR test. Please inform school if your child has a positive test by emailing the main reception email: contact@josephrowntree.york.sch.uk

Core PE Lessons

All students are expected to bring full PE kit to all of their core PE lessons, and participate in them fully. They should also bring inhalers if they will need them during PE. Regular exercise has many benefits for young people and we want to establish, with your support, good exercise habits that will last a lifetime.

If your child is injured, and therefore unable to participate in PE, please write a note in their planner to give further detail about this. Any student without PE kit, or a note from their parent/carer, will be lent clean kit from the PE department. We recommend students wear a gum shield for rugby and hockey and wear an under-skin/additional t-shirt beneath their PE top in adverse weather conditions to keep warm, especially in the winter months. All jewellery and watches must be removed before lessons.

If you have any questions about PE please contact Mr Simpson, Head of PE, via main reception.

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

DEPUTY HEAD: Mr A Haigh, BSc (Hons)

DEPUTY HEAD: Ms C Mann, BA (Hons)

“Working together to achieve success”

Extra-Curricular Activities

We will be advertising our extra-curricular opportunities to students in school, and through our usual communication channels, over the next few weeks. Please keep an eye out for the many activities on offer. These will mainly be starting the week commencing 20 September, and will include Performing Arts opportunities, a Science department club, opportunities to be creative with textiles in design, Chess Club, and the chance to be involved in the Duke of Edinburgh award for students in Year 9 and above.

From next week, Homework Club will be running for 45 mins after school on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon for students in Years 7 to 9. PE extracurricular activities will also be starting next week. Please see the attached information about the timings of the different PE clubs.

Access to the school grounds at the end of the day

Thank you to those parents and carers who are no longer entering the school grounds in a car at the end of the school day. This makes it possible for buses and taxis to safely enter the site and for our students to leave safely. Unfortunately, a small number of parents/carers are continuing to enter the school grounds in cars between 3.00 and 3.30pm. We will review arrangements next week, but I would really appreciate parents/carers cooperation with this matter to ensure the safety of our students as they leave the school site. Our site does make it difficult to shut the gates to the school, as normal service buses and taxis do have to come in. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Key Dates

The key dates for this half term are listed below for your information. We are contacting parents/carers by year group about the information evenings for Y12, Y11 and Y10 to help us decide whether these events should be face to face or online. Final details of these events will be communicated to parents/carers in these year groups shortly.

Wednesday 15 September	Y12 Parent/Carer Information Evening
Tuesday 21 September	Y7 Parent/Carer Information Evening
Thursday 23 September	Y11 Parent/Carer Information Evening
Thursday 30 September	Y6 Open Evening
Thursday 7 October	Y10 Parent/Carer Information Evening
Wednesday 13 October	Governors FGB meeting
Thursday 21 October	Y13 Parent/Carer Evening
Friday 22 October	Half term

After a year of having numerous updates to share with you about government guidance and COVID I am hopeful that we will have a much more normal year. I will therefore revert to sending out a newsletter with key information and dates during the first week of each half term. Please look out for these.

Thank you as always for your support for the school.

Yours sincerely



Dave Hewitt
Headteacher