

16 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you had a restful break over Easter and have enjoyed the further easing of lockdown that has occurred this week. It certainly feels like the end is in sight and we can start to make plans about how school will be structured for the rest of this academic year and the next.

Statement from the Joseph Rowntree Society

You may have seen the information in the media about The Rowntree Society's statement on areas of Rowntree history that includes links to slavery, forced labour, colonialism and racial injustice, both directly and through involvement in global supply chains.

As a school named after Joseph Rowntree we have always celebrated and been inspired by his philanthropic values, but we also educate students about how historic events can change how we view people and organisations today. We welcome the commitment made by The Rowntree Society to undertake further research that will allow us to fully understand and educate our students about the role of Rowntree in this period of British history.

Within school, we recognise and celebrate diversity through events including Black History Month and festivals from different religions. As part of our Citizenship curriculum, Year 7 students study our local community and the origins of the school, and students in Year 9 learn about the importance of equality legislation in modern Britain.

In Year 8, students study the slave trade in History lessons. They learn about the appalling conditions that people had to endure during their journey to become a slave, on plantations and after slavery was abolished. At the end of this unit of work, students decide how Britain could take responsibility for, and make amends for, these events in British history. This work and our wider curriculum will be strengthened by the research The Rowntree Society has pledged to undertake.

Once we have further information from the Rowntree Society we will share this with you.

The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

Following the death of the Duke of Edinburgh, we would like to acknowledge the ongoing legacy of the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Scheme. The scheme has become one of The Duke's most remarkable achievements, equipping and empowering young people from all backgrounds to build the skills, confidence, and resilience they need to make the most out of life. We have over 100 students in school currently participating in the scheme at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. Mrs Vaughan has done a great job of keeping students involved in the scheme despite the challenges of COVID19 and students will hopefully be involved in expeditions later this academic year.

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”

In 2019 students from our Sixth Form went to Buckingham Palace to collect their Gold DofE (pictured below) and we look forward to other students repeating this achievement in the future



If students or parents/carers have ever worked towards, or have achieved a DofE Award, they can share their DofE stories at www.dofe.org

There is also an online book of condolence. If you would like to add your thoughts please visit www.royal.uk/condolence

Extra-Curricular Activities

The recent changes in COVID19 restrictions have meant that we can start to offer more extra-curricular activities again. The PE department will be offering students in Year 7 to 10 the chance to be involved in after school rounders and tennis for the rest of this half term on the following days:

- Year 7 & Year 8 Tuesdays until 4pm
- Year 9 & Year 10 Thursdays until 4pm

If your child wishes to take part in these activities please ask them to speak to their PE teacher to get more details.

Car Parking

I really appreciate the positive response from parents and carers to my request to not come into the school grounds in a car between 3.00pm and 3.30pm. This has made it much easier for buses and taxis to enter the school site safely and students are much safer as they leave school.

The Manager at Hartrigg Oaks has also asked me to remind parents and carers to not park in the Hartrigg Oaks grounds as this has created some difficulties for residents. Thank you for your support with this request.

I have attached a list of key dates for this half term for your information.

Kind regards

Dave Hewitt
Headteacher

Key Dates –2020/21

Wednesday 21 st April	Governors FGB meeting
Friday 23 rd April	Staff Training Day
Monday 3 rd May	Early May Bank Holiday
Thursday 6 th May	Y8 Parent/Carer Evening
Wednesday 26 th May	Governors SCC Committee meeting
Friday 28 th May	Half term