



28 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We have had a busy half term in school as Year 11, Year 10 RE students and Year 13 students have been completing their assessments that will be used as evidence when Teacher Assessed Grades are awarded instead of exams this year. These students have worked really hard in preparation for these assessments and we have been impressed by how well they have coped with this new way of working. We are looking forward to celebrating the end of what has been a challenging year for them at the Y11 Prom and Y13 Ball.

#### Changes to the structure of the school day

There will be less students in school after the May half term holiday as Year 11 and Year 13 students will have stood down. This gives us the opportunity to make some changes to the structure of the school day, whilst maintaining the control measures and arrival and departure times we have had in place in school since September. These changes will allow us to

- give students and staff 40 minutes for lunch rather than the 30 minutes we have had since September
- remove the need for split lessons over break and lunchtimes for any year groups
- make all lessons 1 hour in length

These changes will mean that the timings of lessons, break and lunchtimes will be more in line with our normal timings. We will also be able to continue to have less students on a break or lunch at any one time and they will continue to be split by 'bubble' across different serving points and eating areas.

**Please note that we will not be changing the staggered arrival and departure times for different year groups for the rest of this academic year. All students should continue to arrive at school at the same time as they have been doing since September.**

#### Pastoral Teams

We have been pleased how well the new pastoral system based on Year teams has worked this year and will be continuing this next year as well. We have had some changes to the pastoral teams for the rest of the academic year as Mrs Blacker will be going on maternity leave and Mrs Greenway has retired. The teams for the rest of the academic year will be

Year Team	Progress Leader	Pastoral Manager
7	Mrs Vallis	Mr Decaro
8	Mr Kirwan	Mrs Walshaw
9	Mr Day	Mrs Crotty
10	Mrs Dale	Miss Cambridge

**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”***

Mr Decaro is a new member of staff who we are looking forward to joining us in school. He has provided pastoral support to students in his previous role and has been in school for the past few days to familiarise himself with our systems. Mrs Blacker will continue to work with the Year 7 team for the rest of this academic year, but will be working remotely.

Miss Shepherd will also be working closely with Year 9 students as they prepare for the start of their GCSE courses.

Year 12 students will continue to be supported by Mr Coleman and Mrs Edgar. Mrs Clark who has been the pastoral manager for Year 11 since September will also be joining the Sixth Form team after May half term.

### Good news stories

We have been delighted by how many of our students have been able to return fully to activities inside and outside of school as COVID-19 restrictions have eased. Students in Year 9 and 10 have successfully completed their practice walk and final overnight expedition for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh awards. All completed a map reading course and 1 day walk in York last week, before their 2 day expedition in the final week of term. With a mixture of weather to contend with, all students did exceptionally well, and were excellent ambassadors for the school. Please check our twitter feed for some fantastic comments from the DofE team and members of the public.

Mahirah Chowdhury in Year 13 has been successful in gaining a place with "Beyond Brontes". This is a group that supports young people with a passion for TV and media to gain a foothold in the industry. Mahirah applied after Mrs Edgar saw an advert inviting applications and suggested that she put herself forward. After an interview process with Screen Yorkshire, Mahirah was successful in gaining a place, which involves industry masterclasses, CV and interview workshops, mentorships, one-to-one support, and detailed careers information. There is also the possibility of internships and work experience placements. Mahirah has applied for 'Film and Television' at The University of Bristol and her work with Screen Yorkshire and "Beyond Brontes" should really set her up well.

Toby Warren in Year 12 has signed a new deal with York City Knights that sees him contracted to the club until the end of the 2023 season. Toby works really hard on his rugby and we are delighted to see him rewarded with this level of support from our local professional team. We are also delighted that Oliver Pratt in Year 11 will continue to develop his rugby at Wakefield Trinity. We wish both boys continued success with their rugby.

### Online Parent/Carer Evenings

This half term has seen our final Parent/Carer evening of the year, again using online technology. Thank you to all parents and carers who completed the online questionnaire at the end of the evenings during the year. This feedback has helped us develop and improve on our provision in school. We have been delighted to see a real improvement in the responses to questions regarding communication with school and information being available regarding curriculum and what students learn.

During this year, we have added many different avenues of access to information about what students are studying in school, including a half termly information form for all year groups in Key Stage 3, which is emailed home, and also more detailed information regarding subjects on our website. We also continue to use the Weduc School app as our main form of communication, giving all parents and carers live access to reports, attendance information and green and red stamps. This is alongside a live newsfeed and notifications for emails and school letters. If you haven't already downloaded the Weduc App please do so.

### Free School Meal Vouchers

We will be issuing vouchers for the half term holiday to the families of students who receive Free School Meals. These will be sent via Evouchers.com which is part of the Wonde group system. These will be issued on 31 May.

Thank you as always for your continued support for the school. Best wishes for a restful half term holiday to all our students, families and members of staff.

Yours sincerely



Dave Hewitt  
Headteacher