



# Heworth Grange School

*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*

16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to communicate the arrangements for next week with you as soon as possible.

We will still have significant numbers of staff absent next week either self-isolating or who have tested positive for COVID. This is not just amongst the teaching staff but also in all the other areas essential to the safe running of the school, such as catering staff, site staff and cleaning staff. We have therefore decided that we will have to limit the numbers of students in school again next week and bring year groups into school in the following order:

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July : Year 9 only

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July: Year 9 and 10 only

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July: Year 7 and 8 only

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July: Year 9 and 10 only

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July: Year 7 and 8 only

Could I take this opportunity to thank you for your support, patience and understanding in the situation we find ourselves in. As you will appreciate, Heworth Grange has stayed open to all students throughout the pandemic, except during the national lockdown period. Our careful adherence to all the COVID regulations has enabled us to stay open even when other schools regionally and nationally have been forced to close. We had hoped to remain fully open until the end of term and are bitterly disappointed that we have had to limit student numbers in school, but unfortunately staffing shortages have made it impossible to be open to everyone.

You will appreciate that for all staff working in a school, the potential for close contact with a positive COVID case is an ever-present risk. You will also be aware from the national headlines that there have been record numbers of test and trace contacts in England over the last week.

Having our students in school, especially in the final week of the year, is our highest priority and this is not a decision that we make lightly. We will review staffing levels daily next week - if we are able to bring in more year groups, we will inform you straight away.

Yours sincerely

Ms A Denholm  
Headteacher