



Heworth Grange School

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

28th June 2021

Dear parents and carers

As we start another new week, I would like to thank parents and carers for their support when we had to make the difficult decision about some of our student community having to again work from home this week and last. I know this puts additional stress onto families and we appreciate the kind emails and phone calls we have received expressing support for the school. Unfortunately, I believe we may still have to cope with challenges caused by COVID for a little while longer.

I am delighted to say that all teacher assessed grades have now been sent off to the examination boards and we have also sent off samples of student work that have been requested. It has been an extremely busy time in school but students have been very mature in their approach to their studies. The younger students are also now completing assessments and are also very focused and working hard to ensure the work they produce is the best reflection of their efforts throughout a very challenging year.

You will be aware that we recently had an election for parent governors and I am very pleased to announce that we also have two new parent governors who will join the Local academy board, Joanna Grewcock and Iain Stephenson. Yvonne Baker, our chair and I look forward to working with them both in the near future.

Year 7 Consultation Evening

As a response to parents, carers and student responses, we have reviewed the consultation evening in light of the European Football Championship and the upcoming England match on Tuesday. To enable people to support the national team, staff will be making calls to update parents and carers on Year 7 progress on Wednesday 30th June from 3.30-5.30pm. There are lots of calls to make so if we do not manage to speak to you on Wednesday, staff will speak to you as soon as possible. I appreciate that not everyone is a fan of the football but we wanted to select a day that did not clash with such an important game and many parents, carers and students are huge supporters of the team.

National Ofsted Review on Peer on Peer Abuse / Safe Streets

This week we have been speaking to students in assembly about living our values day in and day out and we have also spoken to them about the national review by the Schools' Inspectorate, Ofsted relating to peer on peer abuse. The report has been well-publicised and concluded that sexual harassment has become "normalised" for young people, in school, online and in other unsupervised spaces including parks and house parties. At Heworth Grange we have already taken steps to address issues of this nature and positively promote discussions in Learning for Life lessons as well as through advisory and assemblies. The approach we have taken highlights the importance of our safeguarding procedures, our curriculum and the supportive environment that we are fostering and developing.

Within the school we have a clear Behaviour Policy which includes a need to identify and report any kind of harassment or abuse, sexual or otherwise. Our students are aware that we encourage them to log any inappropriate words or actions which we monitor and escalate our response accordingly and we consistently train our staff team to recognise and deal with derogatory behaviour. We work very hard to ensure our school community are well supported and considerate of each other. We know that the issues spoken about in the report are not just unique to schools but exist across society, and we must continue to work together to keep our children safe and free from sexual harassment.

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As a school we have robust safeguarding and pastoral systems, these are regularly audited by Consilium Trust, Local Academy Board. Please be assured we always take any concerns or allegations extremely seriously; however, we do rely on being informed. If you have any concerns of this nature please contact us to report this so that we can take action accordingly.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Ms A Denholm
Headteacher

