



10<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

### Celebrating Success

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February will be our half termly reward day. As you are aware achievement points are added daily when students demonstrate our school values in lessons and around the academy (you can view your child's achievements in the classcharts app). Conduct points are deducted from achievement points to provide a half termly total.

Particular congratulations to students I have spoken to in the last few days, who are in the top 10% of their year group this half term; these young people are fantastic ambassadors for our community.



Students in the top 50% will participate in reward activities on Friday; students will have a choice of either a game of dodgeball or computer games. **Friday will be a non-uniform day for all students.** A contribution of £1 will go towards fundraising for our school charities, decided upon by our school council.

### Dates for the diary

**Year 11 GCSE exams** – Exam boards have released documentation this week which details modifications that will be made to this year's GCSE exam content. Subject teachers have already disseminated this information to Year 11 students in lessons. The guidance asks for mock exams taking place between now and the Summer exam series to be as close as possible to the real process. As such, we have planned a mock timetable for after the half term break to reflect this. Year 11 students will all be issued with the mock timetable on Friday to allow them to plan revision accordingly over half term.

**Year 9** – The Year 9 options programme is ready to be distributed after half term. The following timetable will run to ensure students with the support of parents/carers can make fully informed decisions. Precise details will be sent to Year 9 parents/carers after half term, but please make a note of the following events.

Date and Time	Activity	Purpose
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b> 5.00-6.00pm or 6.00-7.00pm	Year 9 Engagement evening. Understanding and supporting with the options process.	To ensure parents/carers understand the process, support available and timelines. Options booklets will be distributed to allow families to discuss choices at home.
<b>Week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Subject talks in lessons/bespoke assemblies.	To give students a greater understanding of what is involved in each subject and the opportunity to ask questions.
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b> 4.00-6.00pm	Parents' evening – current attainment and progress.	1:1 appointments to allow parents/carers to discuss current progress with subject staff to help inform choices.
<b>Week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	1:1 meetings with the Leadership Team to confirm choices.	To enable families to discuss final choices and clarify any queries. Submit final choices.

**Year 7** – A face to face Parents' Evening will be taking place in school on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Appointment sheets will be distributed after half term.

### **Payment for school dinners**

We appreciate the pandemic has caused financial difficulties for many families. Just a reminder that if your financial circumstances have changed in recent months, you may be entitled to free school meals. The link below allows you to check and register for free school meals.

### [Free school meals application - Doncaster Council](#)

We have several students at the moment with debt. Whilst we will never not feed a child, we also have to balance the books. Please can you ensure your child's account remains in credit. If you need help, or need to repay in increments, then please contact us to enable us to support.

### **The Toilets!**

Thank you to parents who have supported our message from last week. To clear any misconceptions, one in one out does not mean students are waiting longer, indeed quite the contrary. It means only one student will be allowed into one cubicle at once rather than students inhabiting toilets for long periods of time in large groups preventing usage. Student voice has shown this week that students are much happier with the new arrangements; the toilets are cleaner and much more easily accessible to all. We will therefore be maintaining this arrangement after half term.

### **Safeguarding Alert**

It has come to our attention over the last couple of days that Year 8 students are being targeted on Snapchat to befriend strangers. Our students have been very vigilant and informed us immediately. We have informed the police.

If your child uses social media, please be vigilant too and remind them of the need to only interact with people who they know. We would encourage all parents to routinely check mobile devices. The messages this week have been specifically asking girls to send pictures, please do not rule out however messages may be sent to boys. If you are concerned about anything please contact our safeguarding team.

### **Message from the Police**

Doncaster Central and Safer Neighbourhood (South Yorkshire Police) have contacted local schools this week regarding some of the challenging incidents of anti-social behaviour involving young people in Doncaster Town Centre and in particular the Frenchgate Shopping Centre. They have informed us that they have CCTV footage of approximately 40 young people around the town centre who have been involved in a range of anti-social behaviour and criminality. Some of these incidents have caused injury to security staff, other young people, shoppers and other incidents have been described as near misses with the potential to cause serious injury or death.

The Frenchgate Shopping Centre along with the interchange have also been the subject of a significant number of mindless incidents of criminal damage costing the centre and retailers thousands of pounds in repairs. They have asked us to inform students/parents that large groups of young people going into the Frenchgate Centre may be asked by Frenchgate security not to congregate in large groups. This request and approach is to ensure that all shoppers don't feel overwhelmed by large groups of young people in the shopping centre.

### **Community Engagement Survey**



Just a reminder that the trust is seeking community voice to continually help us grow and develop. Thank you to parents/carers and students who have already completed the survey. Please encourage your child to complete the survey also if they haven't already done so in school. The link is attached to the body of the email for the survey for both parents and students. We would appreciate your thoughts.

School will close on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> at 2.45pm and re-open for all students on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

Have a great half term.

Kind regards

Claire Robbins  
Headteacher