



26<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

### **A busy week!**

My apologies for not writing to you until Saturday morning this week, it has been an extremely busy week in the Academy recruiting new staff and dealing with roof tiles! Great news though ...

The Academy will be **fully open to all students from Monday**. There will continue to be a cordon in place around South Block as a precaution should we encounter any further storms. This means students or staff will not be permitted to walk in areas where debris landed from the roof until further notice. The trust will be repairing the roof in full, as part of a planned phase of refurbishment, over the summer holidays. This means in the interim, students need to use the main gate to enter school each morning rather than the student entrance. As always, there will be staff on site to meet and greet from 8:10 each morning.

### **Additions to our Pastoral Team**

You will be aware that over the last 12 months there have been many structural and staffing changes as we strive to continually improve the quality of education for our young people. Effective change takes time. The trust has shown fantastic commitment to our school by supporting us to increase the depth of our Pastoral Team. This means that after Easter we will have a non-teaching Head of Year for each year group in school. This is great news for all concerned! It means our Heads of Year will be dedicated to just one year group rather than two, which in turn means they will have more time to dedicate to students in their care and of course our families. I appreciate at times it can be frustrating when you feel people are not getting back to you as quickly as you'd like, but this will be a massive step forward with such enhanced capacity. This now means over the last 12 months we have moved from two to five Heads of Year, we now have a deputy SENCO to support with SEN needs and an SEMH provision to support students with severe social and emotional needs that provide a barrier to attending school. By September, we will also have two 'in-house' inclusion provisions to enable us to withdraw students from mainstream lessons who need intensive support with behaviour for learning choices.

I'm excited! We have made some fantastic appointments this week, as always with our children at the heart of the process. Year 7 students pictured to the right will be helping me deliver an assembly to their year group about their experience of the recruitment process. All candidates who visit our school frequently comment on how fabulous our young people are. They are right!

I will write to you before Easter with names and contact details as the new changes take effect.



### **Parents' Evening**

Just a reminder that **Year 7 Parents' Evening** will be taking place **this Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March (3:30 - 6:00pm)**. Please check your child is making appointments and if you have any concerns, please contact Mrs Kendall (Head of Year 7).

**Year 8 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> March (3:30 - 6:00pm)**. This is a rescheduled evening from Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> November. I will write specifically to Year 8 parents in due course with further information.

**Year 9 Engagement/Options Evening** – Thank you to the 43 parents/carers that have responded to indicate attendance at this crucial evening on **Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March**. If you have not replied as yet, please use the link sent in last week's newsletter or on our website. This evening will provide you with all the information you need to help you make informed choices with your child about GCSE courses.

### **Attendance Protocols**

Punctuality to school is an area we are looking to continually improve. As we are aware as adults, good punctuality is a life skill that is imperative to succeed in the world of work. Just a reminder:

- Registers will be kept open for a maximum of 1 hour 15 minutes after the start of the school day.
- If a student arrives any time after the official start of the school day (8:30), but before the 1 hour 15 minutes window (9:45) they will be marked as late.
- If a student arrives after the 1 hour 15 minutes window, they should be marked with a U code. This means late after registration closed which impacts on attendance. The only exception to this rule is if your child has a medical appointment (that can be justified) which necessitates arrival after 9:45am.

## COVID

Following the latest Government announcement about the changes to self-isolation periods and testing, we are strongly advising staff and students to continue using Lateral Flow Tests twice a week. Students can collect test kits from reception. The latest guidance is available on our website, but please do ring school if you have any queries. I also enclose as an attachment a letter from Doncaster Public Health team this week regarding guidance to share with families.

As always, if you have any questions or queries about any of the content of this week's newsletter, then please do not hesitate to email school.

Have a good weekend! It finally appears like the weather is settled!

Take care.

Kind regards



Claire Robbins  
Headteacher

