

## Newsletter 14: 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### Working Together to Improve Standards and Share Success

#### News from this Week

Happy New Year! After a bit of a shock to the system on Tuesday, students have settled very well back into routines this week with some excellent learning taking place in lessons. Attendance has also been pleasing considering the national rise in COVID infection rates and various flu related illnesses. I know we discuss attendance a lot, but it really does make a difference to the attainment and progress of our young people. I am delighted to share with you, that through our efforts working together, our attendance as a school at the end of Term 1 (December 31<sup>st</sup>) was in line with the national average and considerably above the Doncaster average. Collectively, we must now strive to exceed the national average. Following significant illness before Christmas, attendance has stabilised again this week back in line with our expectations.

Attendance Week Beginning: 03.01.23					
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
93.9%	90.8%	91.1%	92.6%	95.5%	92.7%

We will be targeting Year 8 and 9 students this week with our early morning calls. Well done to Year 11 and 7 once again leading the way – our morning calls make a difference. It is encouraging to see this is now having an impact on Year 10 too. This must be maintained.

#### New staff: SENCO and Head of Year

As many of you will be aware, Mrs Donkin temporarily left at Christmas to begin her maternity leave. Ms Steer will be working as part of our team as Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion (including SENCO) until Mrs Donkin returns. Our usual practice and protocols will be maintained, but should you have any questions about SEND, please do not hesitate to contact either Ms Steer or Miss Longhorn (Deputy SENCO).

Just before Christmas, we appointed Miss Duffy as a Head of Year, who started working with us in school this week. Miss Duffy will be working closely with Year 8 and 9 as part of the pastoral team led by Mrs Moulton. Once again, please do not hesitate to contact either of them if you have any queries or concerns.

#### The Week Ahead ...

##### Uniform

The vast majority of students have looked extremely smart this week. Having given students a week's notice on our return, just a couple of reminders about elements of uniform that we will be tightening up on this week.

**Nails:** Polished, acrylic or fake finger nails are not allowed in school. This is stated clearly in the front of the school planner. Following Christmas, a number of students returned with inappropriate nails this week. It has been noticeable excessively long nails have prevented students from holding pens properly. Rules are in place for a reason. Students have been told nails need to be removed. As of Monday, students still wearing nails will be in detention at social times until the nails are removed.

**Jewellery:** Rings, bracelets and necklaces are not part of the school uniform. Please support us by ensuring any items of jewellery are removed before children enter school. Students will be asked to remove any jewellery and place in their bags, if the item is seen again a consequence will be initiated as this then becomes a matter of defiance.

## **Toilets**

As you are aware, we made changes to our systems before Christmas to instigate year group toilets. Student feedback has been positive about this change. It has not however completely stopped students entering singular cubicles in pairs or small groups if staff are not present, which means unfortunately, there is a lack of respect for facilities from a small minority of students. This is resulting in ridiculous actions such as stuffing endless amounts of toilet paper into toilets bowls or spending long periods of time sitting in toilets. We cannot staff the inside of toilets; we can supervise entry. Toilets are a private place, not a social area. As such, any student seen entering or leaving an individual toilet cubicle with others will receive a lunchtime detention the following day. There is no need whatsoever for students to enter individual cubicles with other students. Our expectations are set, regardless of whether students agree, they need to respect and adhere to the rules, as we will not be deviating from our expectations. Please reinforce our expectations at home.

## **Vaccinations**

Just a reminder that flu vaccinations will be administered for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 on Wednesday if consent forms have been returned.

## **1:1 Careers Interviews**

The first of four days of careers interviews will take place for Year 11 on Thursday. Appointment times will be displayed on the screen in the canteen from Monday for students to view.

## **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Enrichment activities have resumed once again at lunchtime and after school. A HT3 timetable will be published with the newsletter next week.

## **Year 11 examinations**

Modular exams in vocational subjects will be taking place over the next couple of weeks. Students are aware, but just a reminder for Year 11 parents that 'real' exams will be taking place in Sport, I Media and Health and Social. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact your child's teacher directly.

Kind regards



Claire Robbins  
Executive Headteacher