



December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

As 2017 comes to an end, on behalf of the students, staff and Governors I would like to thank you for your continued support this term. Major improvements have taken place and we are confident that the school will continue to grow as we move into 2018.

End of Term Arrangements

As we approach the Christmas break I would like to inform you of the end of term arrangements and arrangements for the first day back in January 2018. The school will break up for the Christmas holiday on Friday 22nd December 2017 and students will finish early at 2pm. The last day of term will be a non-uniform day with which is aimed at supporting our Rock Challenge event as outlined in a letter from Mr Mitchell. Students will return on Monday 8th January at the usual school times.

Student Successes and Highlights

Students continue to represent our school really well, both in the community as well as in specific events. Please visit our News & Events section on the school website containing all the information. Staff and students have taken part in various Christmas-themed charity events. To mark the festive season our students and staff will take part in our annual Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 15th December.

Students have been carrying out a range of assessments in KS3 and examinations in KS4 to better prepare them for the real thing and we will continue to promote our exciting Creating Futures Pathways that have been introduced in KS3 in a range of teaching and learning methods – both in the classroom and out. I am excited about the achievements and possibilities that this will bring - we have some real superstars in our school! Please ask your child about their pathways and the structure of their lessons – such as the Activate and Motivate sections and the different questioning strategies that teachers are using to raise achievement.

We have just carried out a data collection for all students and you will be receiving reports shortly. These are the first type of this kind and we are ask that you respond to the format so we can build a clear and informative report that shows you whether your child is on track.

Standards and Expectations

Whilst the majority of students conduct themselves exceptionally every day, we have a small number who are struggling to adhere to our clearer rules, systems and procedures. The New Year will bring even more clarity on our expectations and this is important so that learning is not affected. I ask that you ensure that your child is in the correct uniform and communicate through their Passport so that any issues can be picked up swiftly and supported where necessary. I cannot stress the importance of the Passport enough and this is the main communication method to support learning and pastoral care.



Academy Update

Those that attended my parent drop-in sessions during the summer term asked for more clarity around plans to join The Mirfield Free Grammar Multi-Academy Trust. Whilst this has been a slow process so far, the decision has been made that we continue as a Local Authority school for the time being. We will still work very closely with all schools and colleagues within the Trust in order to support school improvement.

Parent Voice

Over the coming weeks we will be sending out an online parent voice survey. I ask that you spare the time to give us any constructive feedback to support the changes that are currently taking place. This will also help our school planning moving forward.

We would like to remind parents and carers about the new Communication Strategy which can be found on the school website under the about>policies and procedures tabs. This gives key information about who to contact should you need any support across all areas of the school.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you for your continued support this term.

Yours sincerely

Mr Dean Watkin
Headteacher