



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Following your feedback, I am sending our half-termly update at the start of the term so that parents and carers can keep abreast of the exciting news currently happening within our school community.

As you know, the school had to close for one day last term following a serious break-in, resulting in significant damage and hazards for students. Thank you for all your kind words and support as these decisions are not taken lightly. We place safeguarding at the very top of our agenda and following professional advice, had to ensure the site was completely safe for our students. Thanks to our swift response and dedicated team, we managed to get this message to parents early to support childcare arrangements but I apologise for any inconvenience caused.

We have had a fantastically positive half-term with settling students back into learning quickly and focussing on their studies. We have also welcomed a number of new students, both our new year 7 cohort and students joining us from other schools. Students that join us from other schools always settle in well and it is a pleasure to hear the great feedback we get - commending us for what we offer and our caring family ethos.

This year we welcome a new Chair of Governors, Andi Briggs and Vice Chair, Sarah Easby. We have also welcomed new and additional Governors, making our collective team fully complemented with a range a skills and experience to support our future progress. Details of our full Governing Body will be published on our website so you are familiar with the team.

Our students have been undertaking their first assessments of the year to inform our first data collection on progress and many mock exams have taken place. Students have behaved impeccably in exams and this demonstrates their commitment to study. We will be sending through this data to parents over the next couple of weeks so you have a picture of your child's progress so far this year.



You may have noticed a continued staff presence before and after school around the school vicinity. This is to further increase our welcome and goodbye approach to school. We have seen an increase in the number of parents collecting and dropping off students through the main school car park and this is causing disruption to our disabled transport due to blockages on the one-lane road to the school. We ask that parents drop their children off on the Edale estate so that we can ensure a safe and smooth start to school - our staff are around to ensure presence during these times and support in safe road-crossing to the school site. Our improved duty teams have been very well-received by external visitors - seeing staff positively greeting students as they enter school and preparing/equipping them for a positive day and this is important to us and our school values.

School standards continue to improve with the amount of rewards increasing significantly - showing the effort that the vast majority of our students demonstrate. Our overall attendance has also increased compared to previous years and we further promote this area with our 'No Absence November' initiative. Please support us in ensuring your child strives for high attendance as this really does have an impact on both their achievement and their future career prospects.

As we approach the festive season, I look forward to exciting school events such as planned rewards days and Christmas celebration events and hopefully not bad weather!

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr Watkin
Headteacher