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NDB/SMF

11 September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a pleasure to welcome all of our happy, smiling students back into school on Tuesday and Wednesday last week. The level of enthusiasm shown has been a delight. The students have been so pleased to see each other that it once again demonstrates for me what a cohesive community we are. As part of that, we have also welcomed our new Year 7, some additional students into Year 10, and a new Year 12 cohort. Although we are just starting our second week, staff have already commented on what a positive approach they are taking to their studies. I have no doubt this will continue.

I would like to mention a couple of additional 'dates for your diary' that are worth being aware of. As some parents may remember from last year, due to the significant changes taking place in education at the moment - and our desire to develop, embed and review our practice as a result - we requested from governors two additional training days. I mentioned in a letter at the time that I would be requesting two additional days once again for similar reasons this year. These have been authorised, so the school will now be closed (besides dates already published) on the following days:

- Friday 20 October
- Friday 16 February

We have intentionally placed both of these immediately before a half term holiday in order to minimise disruption. We are very grateful for your bearing with us, and our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

A change that Year 11 parents in particular may wish to be aware of is that we have had to move the date of the Sixth Form Open Evening from Thursday 7 December to Wednesday 6 December. We apologise for this: Mirfield Free Grammar had their open evening on the same date and were unable to move it. As a result, we have been flexible in order to enable parents to attend both evenings.

Finally, and I am sorry to have to raise this in what is intended as a welcoming and positive letter, a student has intentionally set the fire alarm off in school during our first week. As all of our alarms have covers on, it takes a deliberate act to set them going. As a result, I would like to make clear the consequence of such behaviour, given the danger that this poses to our community and the lost learning time for our hardworking students. West Yorkshire Fire Service pass on the £375 cost of such false alarms to those who maliciously set one off, so we would assist them in this should the fire brigade attend. The sanction for this will also be a 3-day exclusion.

If such behaviour is repeated by a student, we will have little choice but to look to either a permanent exclusion or a managed move to another school for 12 weeks, with a view to a permanent move. Obviously, it is my hope - and expectation - that such behaviour will not be repeated; this message is to ensure that everyone is aware of what will happen if it is.

On a more positive note, I am pleased to tell you that we will be launching a new website in early November (if all goes to plan!) so please look out for that. You should find it easier to navigate and faster to find what you are looking for. The initial visuals look excellent and it has been encouraging to see it taking shape.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N D Bulley', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

N D Bulley
Headteacher