



PDR/SMF

22 July 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

As we approach the end of the academic year, I am delighted to report that we finish for the summer break with the school in a very strong position. Despite all the difficulties we have encountered associated with covid, as a school community we are stronger than ever. This in no small part is due to the exceptional partnership between home and school. In sometimes situations of adversity and certainly great challenge, we have worked through the issues together and this has made us a formidable team – thank you.

Two key issues which have enabled us to be as successful as we have this year, have been the early adoption of high quality live teaching for students isolating at home and also the continued adherence to very robust covid protocols in school, at a time when the government advised us to relax rules. These two factors, more than anything, have ensured that our students have academically progressed very well during the year and are in a very strong position to tackle the challenges ahead next year.

Despite everything that has been going on, I am sure, like us, you will be delighted that once again we have been ranked as the number 1 secondary school in Kirklees and Calderdale when taking in to consideration over 50 different measures, in the Real Schools Guide 2021. This accolade being just reward for the tremendous hard work our students and staff put in every day of the week.

Despite difficult public sector funding conditions, we continue to be in a very healthy financial position, which will again allow us to further invest in an outstanding provision, in terms of both capital infrastructure and resources, and the human resources directly in front of our students. Indeed, in this context I am delighted to report we have a very low staff turnover this year, with just 3 permanent contract teachers leaving us, one fulfilling a long held ambition to join the clergy, one fulfilling a passion to work directly in a children's mental health provision and another going on to teach at a similarly prestigious institution. With excellent appointments already made to fill these positions, and some staff returning from maternity leave, we will start September with an outstanding staff team, all graduates in their specialist subjects.

Heckmondwike Grammar School, High Street, Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire, WF16 0AH  
Tel: 01924 402202 | Fax: 01924 418318 | Email: [office@heckgrammar.co.uk](mailto:office@heckgrammar.co.uk) | [www.heckgrammar.co.uk](http://www.heckgrammar.co.uk)  
Headteacher: Mr P Roberts

Heckmondwike Grammar School Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 07348329. Registered office address as above.

I am sure you will appreciate from previous communications including Heckler reports, we have had an outstanding year. I continue to marvel at how as a school community we have a wonderful balance of academic excellence, supported by exemplary pastoral care and since the return to school after the national lockdown in March, a myriad of extra-curricular activities that students and indeed staff will long remember, which help cement our school values. Indeed, the last week of the year has exemplified these values, with the incomparable 2 day House Music competition, with a record number of entries, the Year 11 Prom, the Summer Prize Giving Ceremonies, a fabulous outdoor music concert, followed by House Sports Day, which is the final event of the annual House Competition. With the Lees Cup being presented to the winning House on Friday during the full school assembly.

I would like to publicly thank all of the school staff. Every one of them plays an invaluable part in ensuring that we always provide the best possible education for our students, very often going above and beyond what could reasonably be expected of them, all because they care passionately about every individual student.

However, the real stars of the show have again been our fabulous students – your children. Despite a very disrupted year, they continue to juggle the rigours of a very academic curriculum, immerse themselves in the House system, all the while conducting themselves with great respect for one another, acting with responsibility and so maintain the standards that we aspire to at Heckmondwike Grammar school.

None of the above would happen without the unfaltering support from parents. Despite the very significant difficulties many of you have faced this year, you have worked tirelessly with us and I thank you for the family commitment, which is always very evident and invaluable. Whilst I am sure there is a level of tiredness in both students and staff, there continues to be a very happy buzz around school and when the final bell rings on Friday afternoon there will be mixed emotions of looking forward to the holiday but also a tinge of sadness that it is all over for another year.

Whatever your plans for the summer, I do hope you have a fabulous time and I will look forward to September with excitement in the knowledge that together we make a fantastic team.

Yours faithfully

Peter Roberts

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Roberts". The signature is written in dark ink and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Headteacher