



## HECKMONDWIKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

RGT/SMF

19 July 2021

Dear Parents

Over the past few days we have been introducing our new House and Rewards system to all our current year groups in anticipation of a return to a semblance of normality in September. It is a system that will allow us to further reward and recognise our outstanding students who arrive at school, day after day, week after week, term after term upholding our core values of Respect, Responsibility and Excellence. The system is based primarily on awarding positive points for all aspects of their school life; from conduct in lessons and around the building, to classwork and homework effort as well as extra-curricular participation and, of course, academic progress.

Whilst it is difficult to convey the exact nature of the system on paper, I have included a synopsis on a separate sheet. In addition to this, we will be holding parental information evenings for each year group at the start of next term where we will explain the system in more detail.

The biggest change will be the awarding of an "Ethos Point" which will be issued to all students in every lesson should they uphold our values and ethos. So, a student should achieve at least 5 of these each day (unless they have not heeded a verbal warning issued in class). We feel that this will allow parents, staff and students to monitor their holistic progress more closely as well as offering extra recognition for being the very best version of themselves at all times.

There are also rewards for extra-curricular participation where students will receive 1898 points for attending or organising lunchtime and after-school clubs and societies as well as attending any intervention/mentoring sessions. We hope this will offer a further incentive to participate in the myriad of opportunities available outside lesson time.

Furthermore, students will be rewarded for their academic progress compared to their target grades. This will occur following our MileStone assessments as part of a revaluation of our assessment and reporting system, something which has occurred hand-in-hand with the Rewards and Behaviour update. More of this below.

We have also streamlined the number of negative points that can be awarded to simplify the process. There are only five categories of negative points that can be awarded. They are self-explanatory and students have been told the exact nature of why these are awarded should the need arise.

All of these points will ultimately count towards the Lees Cup meaning the House system is now a fully integrated part of everything our students do, from their classwork and conduct to their homework, from their extra-curricular participation to their academic progress.

It is crucial that parents follow their child's progress on Classcharts, so if you are having issues logging in then please contact us at school and we will endeavour to help you with your account details.

### **Assessment and Reporting 2021**

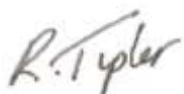
We have also made an update to our Assessment and Reporting systems. From September all students in all year groups will sit assessments throughout their course of study called SteppingStones and MileStones. SteppingStone assessments are small tests usually based on the topic that has been studied recently and they will be used by the teacher to identify gaps in knowledge so action can be taken. The results of SteppingStone assessments will be shared in class with the students rather than reported home.

MileStone assessments are synoptic assessments based on, and drawing from, all of the content studied in that subject up to that point. These are the most important assessments and a GCSE-equivalent grade will be issued in all year groups. It is important to recognise what the awarded grade for a MileStone assessment represents. It means this is the grade a student is likely to get at GCSE/A 'level should they continue to work at the level they have been working at. Further information about this will be distributed when we send out our updated reports towards the end of the first term in December. For Year 11 & Year 13 these MileStone Assessments will be their mock exams in November and March.

So, we have two significant and exciting updates to our House & Rewards and Assessment systems. In the new academic year I will write to you again to present our new style report.

In the meantime, please read the details of the House and Rewards system and I hope you all have a restful summer break.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Tipler

Deputy Headteacher



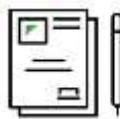
**Ethos Points** are awarded to recognise those students who consistently display a positive attitude and work ethic through our grammar school values and our motto. All students should get these in every lesson. Additional Ethos Points can be awarded outside of lessons for actions which reflect our values.

There are 3 other categories of positive points that can be awarded at a teacher's discretion. These are awarded when students have displayed further excellence in their work:



#### Classwork Excellence

Awarded for work completed in class that is worthy of merit.



#### Homework Excellence

Awarded for completing homework or independent research that is worthy of merit.



#### Participation Excellence

Awarded for answering questions, displaying a high standard of oracy or effort that is worthy of merit.



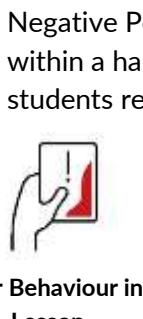
1898

**1898 Points** are awarded to students and staff as a recognition for attending or organising extra-curricular activities, attending or delivering mentoring or impact sessions, and contributing to the wider life of the school.



#### Academic

**Academic Points** are awarded following the MileStone Assessments completed throughout Y7 – Y13. Based on a comparison between your target grade and your assessment grade in each subject.



#### Poor Behaviour in Lesson

- 1<sup>st</sup> = Verbal Warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> = Loss of Ethos Point
- 3<sup>rd</sup> = Poor Behaviour in Lesson Point



#### Homework

Issued for any missed, incomplete or unsatisfactory homework.



#### Late

Issued for arriving late to school or a lesson without good reason.



#### Misuse of Equipment or Uniform

Issued for inappropriate use of a mobile phone, incorrect uniform or lack of essential equipment



#### Poor Behaviour out of Lesson

Any event deemed poor behaviour by any member of staff