



HECKMONDWIKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PDR/SMF

19 July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of term and indeed the end of this academic year, it is always my pleasure to update you on what we have been doing and some of our plans for next year. As I sit at my desk now, it seems like only yesterday I was writing a similar letter, this time last year – how the year has flown.

As we are all aware, the year has not been an easy one for any of us and the pandemic, certainly at various times, has taken a toll on us all. However, whatever troubles it has thrown at us, our pragmatic approach has always allowed us to successfully navigate the sometimes choppy waters and I am delighted to report that we finish for the summer break with the school in a very strong position.

Charity and Fundraising

Despite for many families, this year posing quite financially challenging, as a community we have raised £18,492 which is a quite phenomenal amount and way surpasses our target. Some of the charities have been the well known, national/international ones, but some of the others have been our local ones and ones which in many cases are very close to heart for some of our school community. In addition to fundraising, there have been many other worthy initiatives, not least our Eco-committee doing sterling work, making the school more eco-friendly, with litter picks, clothing exchanges and guest speakers raising awareness.

School Uniform

We are very aware, the cost of school uniform, including PE kit can be quite significant and as such, we are pleased the government is asking schools to review requirements and provision. We are fully compliant with new legislation and have reduced the number of compulsory items and increased the number of suppliers to 3, to foster more competition. The overall effect is a sizeable saving. We do have a uniform exchange facility in school and any family experiencing severe difficulty in purchasing the uniform should contact the school. Click the link: [Uniform information](#)

After consultation with our school community about sixth form dress code, we have decided to keep it the same, 'Smart Casual' as is current. Click the link: [Sixth form dress code 2022 - 2023](#)

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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.

Attendance

As a school, we have always prided ourselves on the excellent attendance of our students. The pandemic has played havoc with this and we have spent significant amounts of time in the last 2 years encouraging students not to attend school if they feel unwell. However, as we hopefully continue to come out of the pandemic, like all schools, we are focusing on maximising the attendance of students. As such, as we have earlier this year, we will continue to write to parents at regular intervals with a summary of their child's attendance. The information contained is purely for your information and may help you, when having to make difficult judgement decisions about whether your child is fit to attend school.

Extra- Curricular

I am sure you will appreciate from previous communications, including Heckler reports, we have had a fabulous 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 a myriad of extra-curricular activities that students and indeed staff will long remember, which help cement our school values. Indeed, the last few days has exemplified these values, with a wonderful Sports Day, in relatively cool conditions last Friday and the incomparable 2 day House Music competition earlier this week, with a record number of entries, which is the final event of the annual House Competition. As we all know, the House competition is so important to the school and the willingness of students, of differing abilities to participate, so that they get a point for their House, is humbling to see. The Lees Cup will be presented to the winning House on Friday during the full school assembly. We now have over 70 clubs/societies and the challenge is always there to students to add to the list, by starting a new club, with funding available if required.

Staff

This year we have said goodbye to a small number of staff, who have gone on to promoted posts or in some cases a well earned retirement. With excellent appointments already made to fill these positions, we will start September with an outstanding staff team, all graduates in their specialist subjects. As we close for the year, 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 at times another disrupted year, they continue to juggle the rigours of a very academic curriculum, and 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, 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 welcoming back our school community in September.

Yours faithfully

Peter Roberts

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

Mr P D Roberts

Headteacher