



HECKMONDWIKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PDR/JDN

31 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

How many times have we said, how time flies? And hopefully, when we are having fun! None more so than this Spring term, where it only seems like yesterday we were in the throes of winter, in the gloom of dark nights and short days, and now we are very much in Spring, with singing birds and blooming flowers. This analogy is very true in the life of school in the last few months, where we have navigated through some tricky times, but always been optimistic, always with a smile and every day, all doing our best to make school an enjoyable and rewarding experience for all concerned.

You won't need me to remind you of the strike days and snow which have certainly caused some disruption to our normal ways of working. It is not for me to give a personal view of teachers' concerns with respect to pay and conditions, but one fact worth pointing out is that nationally there are more teachers leaving the profession than those joining, with some schools not being able to staff subjects with specialists for very long periods of time. Thankfully, due to the continued attractiveness of working at HGS, we have as yet not had such acute problems, though, in subject appointments, the fields for applicants have certainly narrowed in number. This term, we sadly say goodbye to Mr Snowden, one of our Computer Science specialists. Mr Snowden has done an excellent job in the 5 years he has been with us and now moves to a position working in industry where he will be a very sad loss to the profession. Mr Hall and Mrs Buck, both well-qualified computer Scientists, will be joining the expanding department as replacement.

As you will recall, on 17 January our wonderful school had its 125th birthday and we celebrated by forming the numbers and initials with the whole school population on the MUGA, all filmed by a drone. On Saturday, 1 July we will further these celebrations with an Open Day, where we will have tours of the school, a display of 125 artefacts representing the school's life, a musical performance and complimentary afternoon teas, served throughout the day. Please do put this date in your family diaries and do invite anybody who you think would be interested, to visit the school, it is an open invitation.

During this term we have continued our excellent core business of delivering wonderful learning opportunities for all our students and they continue to thrive in the in depth, fast paced, detailed learning environment, where healthy competition continues to push our students and staff to be highly successful. Indeed, the House system is the vehicle for the

competition and continues to grow in terms of the number of events and also the number of extra-curricular activities, which now exceed 50 and all feed in to the annual competition.

And while all this has been going on, we have raised nearly £4000 for various charities!

We are now in the last few weeks of preparation for year 11 and year 13 students, before they commence their exams in May. Lest we forget, these two year groups have had a difficult time in the last few years due to the pandemic. However, they have progressed remarkably well, and our tracking data indicates that we should build on last year's outstanding results. As you would expect, we have a finely tuned program to support them over this stressful time and we will enter the exam season as a team behind them, and with great optimism.

Whatever your plans for the Easter period, on behalf of the whole school, we do wish you an enjoyable and restful time and hope you can get some time together as families. My best wishes to you all.

Yours faithfully,



Peter Roberts

Headteacher