

PDR/JDN

23 May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

I do hope this letter finds you well. As we approach our final half-term, I would like to update you on a few points coming up in the next few weeks.

## Early closure for Year 7 Open Evenings

To enable staff time to prepare classrooms and display areas for the Year 7 Open Evenings, the school will be closing early on the afternoons of Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 June. Lessons on these days will be shortened to 50 minutes and students will be dismissed at 2.15pm. Students who need to wait for transport may stay in the library. Private bus services are aware of the earlier finish time. We apologise for any disruption this may cause, but I know you will appreciate these are flagship events for us which we are keen to deliver to the highest quality.

I have enclosed a link to a <u>flyer providing details of our Open Evenings</u>, please do pass this on to anyone you feel would be interested in attending.

## Training Days Friday 20 June and Monday 23 June

As previously communicated, as is usual after the 2 open evenings, we are having a staff training day on Friday 20 June. Additionally, there will be a further closure day for students on Monday 23 June. The reason for this is that we are implementing a comprehensive reorganisation of the school site which necessitates students not being in the building and staff being available to facilitate the moves. To explain the context behind this, over a number of years, as some subjects have increased in size, we have found ourselves in a position where many subjects are split across different areas of the site. This is not conducive to effective teamwork amongst staff in the same subjects. You may already know the temporary MFL building in the middle yard is being removed next week and this will enable the MFL department to be housed in much nicer classrooms in the main school. To ensure we have capacity to do this, the currently being built, new floor on the Powell building will be ready for September 2025.

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Some highlights of the reorganisation will include all 3 sciences being housed in the same building, with laboratories being redeveloped over the summer and a brand-new fitness suite being built in the area currently facilitating Art. With the temporary MFL building removed, we are remodelling the middle yard to include tiered seating to facilitate audiences watching outdoor performances, with a canopy to protect from the worst of the elements. Whilst certainly causing some upheaval over the next few weeks, the result of the moves will be a much more cohesive and logical site, greatly benefitting students and staff.

## **HGS Music department – Lead School**

We are delighted to announce our Music department has recently been awarded Lead School status for 5 local education authorities. This is an exciting time for the staff and students, as we now have the opportunity of supporting other schools across Yorkshire using our exemplary practice as an exemplar for others. As part of the wider school site reorganisation, the Music department have already moved into a newly refurbished suite of rooms close to the Swann Hall.

On behalf of us all at school, I wish you a lovely half-term break, whatever that looks like for your family, and thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Peter Roberts

Peter Roberts

Headteacher