



February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Dear parents and carers,

As we break for half-term, I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding during a period where COVID-19 has had its most significant impact to date on our staff attendance.

I am pleased with the way in which we have responded to this challenge and through a combination of our own staff stepping in to help and with the support of some fantastic agency staff, any disruption to learning has been minimised.

During this half-term, we have been able to engage with our students and generate some highly detailed, rich feedback, to help gain an understanding of their experiences in school and to help us continue to improve and meet their needs.

The key categories which were identified for further discussion were as follows:

- School facilities and computer access
- Overall Happiness
- Developing confidence
- Treating all pupils fairly
- Control of bullying
- Encouraging and listening to pupils' views

Our Form Captains did a fantastic job in generating and presenting their feedback, and I am now collating this, to identify some quick wins and long term priorities. We will then share our response with students. I will conduct another round of meetings during the next half term, and I am very much looking forward to continuing this work and having a positive impact.

With the exception of Year 8, which will take place after half term, it has been fantastic for us to be able to invite you in for parent-teacher meetings. Attendance at these evenings has been really encouraging, with over 80% of parents being able to attend. The relationship between school and parents is a vital one and as we emerge from the restrictions of the pandemic it is important that we continue to work closely with you to ensure our children are getting the support that they need. I am keen for us to continue to develop this relationship and would always encourage parents to take a daily interest in what your child is studying at school, look through their books and read their journal. As ever, if you do have any questions or feedback, please contact the form tutor of your child, or their head of year in the first instance.

With regards to Year 11, they are currently sitting their mock examinations as we countdown to their final examinations in the summer. If you are the parent of a Year 11 child, you can support them by asking them to talk through the things that they are revising. Whilst a work-life balance is important and it is essential that they find time to relax and do the things that they enjoy, I would recommend that they should be aiming to do around 10 hours a week of independent study / revision. This is best organised into small chunks, with a clear structure and focus on what exactly they are going to revise. Sometimes there is tendency for a

scattergun approach, which can be counter-productive. It's better to be specific and revise in small steps. That said, the work ethic and attitude of the majority of our Year 11's has been very good and they should be proud of themselves. It is important not to panic, if they work hard, they will do just fine. Just a reminder that they do also have access to GCSE Pod and SAM learning, two valuable resources which have a demonstrable impact when used consistently.

I know that some of our Y11's have been concerned by the impact that the disruption of the last two years has had. Please be reassured that this context is taken into consideration, both in terms of the grade boundaries and how grades are awarded, but also in terms of the content that will be included in the examination. Mrs Romaniw is also writing to you this week with further information on this now that the examination boards have released further information.

As we approach Spring, it is fantastic to see a number of after-school sports fixtures recommence. I would like to thank our staff for supporting and facilitating these opportunities, our sports teams have always been important to us and I am sure that our students are enjoying the chance to participate once again.

For those that have wished to do so, there has been the opportunity in recent months for 12 to 15 year olds to access the COVID-19 vaccination through the schools vaccination programme. We have been advised that during half-term, The Ironstone Centre, West Street, Scunthorpe will have dedicated 12-15 year old vaccination sessions on Wednesday and Saturday from 2:30pm to 7:30pm. Appointments can be made by the national booking system <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/> or by calling 119. Walk-in appointments are also possible, pending availability.

I would also like to take this opportunity to briefly advise you that North Lincolnshire Council has been successful in securing funding to introduce Mental Health Support Teams into schools. We have been selected to be a part of the first wave of the programme and we are currently engaged in partnership with the Anna Freud Centre at the early stages of implementation. The programme is a replication of other schemes that have been introduced around the country and further information can be seen at <https://www.withmeinmind.co.uk/>. We are delighted to be involved in this piece of work and I am confident that it will be a valuable resource to support our students well-being.

And finally, we are delighted to welcome Miss Monteith back into school following her maternity leave; students are thrilled to see her back.

Have a lovely half term,

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mr Rowlands', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr Rowlands