

## **WEEK 2 - Friday 16 September 2022**

Welcome back to Year 9.

I always look forward to returning to school after the summer holidays. It is lovely to have a break but I get a bit bored by the end of the holiday and I miss the students, so it's great to back.

This week we talked about routines in our assembly and the importance of having a morning and evening routine that helps set them up for the day. I explained to the students that having a routine can ease anxiety and stress as being prepared gives them less to worry about. Packing their bags with all their school essentials and having uniform ready for the morning helps them have a positive start to the day. Routines are a big part of the school day and they are so used to lining up, going to tutor, following the one-way system, and following a timetable. It seems so familiar to them that I don't think they even realise this is a routine that they have adopted.

I would like to finish my blog with high praise for the way our students came into school on Friday following the news about the Queen. Thoughtful conversations were had in tutor and outside school as they arrived. Many students were talking about her age, how long she had reigned and how people were feeling different emotions. I was so impressed with the empathy shown by Year 9.

As always Miss Staveley and I are here, please contact us if you have anything you would like to discuss or if you have any concerns.

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 9

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 9

## **WEEK 4 - Friday 30 September 2022**

We are now halfway through the first half term and time is flying.

This week, the students in Year 9 had an assembly with Miss Lawes who talked about careers. I'm not sure if all of the students have fully taken on board the importance of settling down and working hard in terms of the impact of their career. They are, after all, still at the beginning of their journey towards GCSEs and pathway choices. To help them, over the coming year, they will be given lots of information and have many opportunities to engage in activities that give an insight into future careers.

Year 9 also had the opportunity to listen to a guest speaker on Wednesday. The TV comedian, Lucy Beaumont, who is an ex-pupil, was here to talk about her journey from school to the present day and also to highlight the importance of following your dream and working hard to achieve it. It is always a pleasure to see students who have attended our school and become a success in their chosen profession. It's a personal highlight for me to receive emails from ex-students who want to tell me how well they are doing. Sometimes it makes me feel old but it is always a joy!

Remember that Miss Staveley and I are always here and it is our job to help your young person to achieve their goals too. If there is anything you would like to discuss or if you have any concerns, please contact us.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 9

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 9

### **WEEK 8 - Friday 22 November 2022**

This week I heard that it is only eight weeks to Christmas. That is quite a scary thought because that will mean we will be nearly halfway through Year 9, with the autumn term being by far the longest!

We returned this week to the wet weather, and it amazes me the number of students that greet me in the morning without a coat. If nothing else a pair of gloves and a hat or scarf would help first thing in the morning. However, I know how difficult it is to get teenagers to wear these as I remember having the same conversation at home every morning.

This week our assembly has refocused on expectations. The students are aware that over the next few weeks the topic of options will begin. Although they do not choose them just yet, it is in their best interest to focus and work hard and show commitment to their subjects. GCSEs seem to approach very quickly, and it is our aim to ensure that every student focuses and gets the best out of their lessons from their teachers.

We have also been looking to support those students who are constantly late to class and missing vital teaching time. We have recorded all of these minutes lost and I thank you for supporting us with this when we call you to let you know. When we work together our young people achieve remarkable things and our aim is for everyone to reach their full potential.

This morning I spoke to the students in assembly about rewarding good behaviour and striving for attendance above 95%. I look forward to being able to start small and build upon the rewards.

If there is anything you would like to discuss or if you have any concerns, please contact us.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 9

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 9

### **WEEK 10 - Friday 18 November 2022**

Anti-Bullying week has been our focus this week and I hope the information that we have shared - through Assembly and tutor periods - with our young people gives them pause for thought.

Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face to face or online

We try extremely hard to address every concern and hope that we educate the young people to understand the meaning of bullying. We have also talked this week about taking responsibility for our actions and accepting the consequences when we don't follow the rules. We are trying to prepare our young people for the future and we are all aware that, as adults, sometimes we have to do things we may not like but are part of our role.

We shared information evening this week and the presentation can be found on the school website. Please take a look as there was a lot of useful information that highlighted all the interesting things that will happen throughout year 9.

If there is anything you would like to discuss or if you have any concerns, please contact us.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 9

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 9

#### **WEEK 12 - Friday 2 December 2022**

'World Aids Day' has been our focus this week in Assembly and tutor time and I hope the information that we have shared with our young people gives them pause for thought.

Students have also had the opportunity to write a personal message to display on our Christmas tree and prepare Christmas cards for members of our local community. As a school we try to encourage our young people to be respectful as they walk past your homes morning and night and sending a card is our way of saying that we think about you especially at this time of year.

We are fast approaching Christmas and there is a buzz in the air but our young people must remember school doesn't finish until Friday 16 December at 1.45pm, so that's still two full weeks of learning that's yet to take place, please encourage them to keep up with attendance.

If there is anything you would like to discuss or if you have any concerns, please contact us.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 9

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 9

#### **WEEK 16 - Friday 13 January 2023**

Happy New Year.

Students in Year 9 have returned after Christmas looking smart and ready to work. They know that the next term will be important for them as they will be thinking about their options and deciding which subjects they would like to take for their future GCSEs. I would urge you to keep an eye out for information regarding options and have a conversation with your young person about what will be best for them and the choices they will make.

Last week, we held an assembly about one of our key school values – kindness – and I set them the challenge of doing at least one kind thing each day. There is a huge benefit to doing a kind deed as it also makes you feel good about yourself. Some of our young people find it difficult to say or think something positive about themselves and if they can take a minute to think about a kind deed they have done, this can boost their self-esteem and confidence.

Remember that Miss Staveley and I are always here for you and the students and it is our job to help your young person to achieve their goals too. If there is anything you would like to discuss or if you have any concerns, please contact us.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 9

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 9

### **WEEK 20 - Friday 10 February 2023**

What a busy half term it has been.

The Year 9 Options Fair and Progress Evening have made it a busy and important half term for everyone in Year 9.

Progress Evening gave me the chance to chat to lots of parents and the common thread in these conversations was that we all want our young people to succeed and that, if we work together, they can reach their full potential.

As a teacher, I get such a thrill from Results Day but there is a lot of hard work that goes before this and it is usually a three-way path involving teachers, parents/carers and, of course, the young person themselves. We have to encourage and guide them all the way and that starts now with ensuring conversations are had at home regarding their option choices.

Please feel free to call or make an appointment if there is anything you would like to discuss.

Today we have said goodbye to Miss Staveley as Assistant Head of Year 9. She is too valuable an asset to lose and therefore is moving into the SEND team to add another string to her bow. We wish her good luck as she will be working towards her dream of qualifying as a teacher in the future.

And today, we welcome our new Assistant Head of Year 9, Mr Stuart Fielden.

In the brief time I have known Stuart, I know he will be an asset to the team, and we will work closely together to guide our young people through the rest of year 9 and onwards to success.

Enjoy the half term

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 9

Miss Staveley

Assistant Head of Year 9

### **WEEK 22 - Friday 3 March 2023**

Hello

We have returned after half term and Spring is clearly in the air. The nights are getting lighter which makes it more pleasurable for the students to walk home and Spring is a sign of new beginnings.

Students have started the process of choosing their options, however this is only the start of the process and there is a long way to go before the choices are finalised. As you can imagine, timetabling 250 students for options is a huge job.

You may have had your child come home and mention that Miss Lawes held an assembly to discuss the possibility of work experience in the future. Obviously, this is just a possibility at the moment however the students were excited to discuss this afterwards.

We are moving quickly through year 9 and the majority of our students are maturing quickly. Please can I request that a conversation is had around wearing the correct uniform and not wearing jewellery. We endeavour to set our students up for leaving school and going into the wider world and part of that is following rules and regulations. It's a life lesson for the future as some employers insist on wearing uniform for the post.

Together I know we want the same outcome and that is for our young people to achieve their full potential.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 9

Mr Fielden

Assistant Head of Year 9

### **WEEK 24 - Friday 17 March 2023**

It has been a difficult two weeks for students in Year 9. Firstly, they coped with the school closing early due to water supply issues and then – this week – two strike days that saw the students working at home. They have coped well returning today straight back into their learning environment with a degree of maturity. I appreciate how difficult this has been for them and we are supporting them as best we can.

This week in assembly, Mrs Edwards informed the students we will be having visitors on 24 March for the 'Prison Me No Way' day. This is an exciting and varied day, during which they learn not just about prison but also about staying safe and minimising risk-taking behaviour in general.

As the nights get lighter, there are always plenty of opportunities to stay behind after school and engage in some of the exciting clubs available. There is so much available – it really isn't just about sport.

Clubs are a great activity to improve social skills and make friends with people that the students may not meet in lessons

Here are some examples of clubs that are not based on sport

Week A

Monday KS3 Maths Club Choir (12.30-12.55pm) Choir (1.30-1.55pm)

Tuesday Synergy Hessle Theatre Company Dance Club

Wednesday Art Club French Drama Club

Thursday Open Drama Club

Friday Dungeon and Dragons

Week B

Monday KS3 Maths Club Choir (12.30-12.55pm) Choir (1.30-1.55pm)

Tuesday Maths Homework Club (catch up) Synergy Hessle Theatre Company

Wednesday Art Club French

Thursday Open Rehearsal Drama Club

If you think your child would like to join a club but don't feel like going on their own please ask them to come and see me. I will go with them the first time to introduce them to the member of staff and settle them in

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 9

Mr Fielden

Assistant Head of Year 9

### **WEEK 26 - Friday 31 March 2023**

We have come to the end of the Spring term and, although it seems to have rained forever, hopefully the summer is on its way.

Last week Year 9 students had the opportunity to be involved in the 'Prison Me No Way' Day which was an exciting and varied day, during which they learnt not just about prison but also about staying

safe and minimising risk-taking behaviour in general. I think the opportunity to see what a prison cell is like in real life was a real eye-opener for our young people and to hear the stories from real prisoners gives them an insight into how quickly life can change when they don't make the right decisions. This was just one of many sessions which raised awareness – in a sensitive way – of the risks that young people can sometimes take, and how to avoid them. School is not just about Maths and English but an opportunity to learn about the real world and life when they have left us.

At the end of last week, I watched the Year 9 boys' football team play Headlands School and saw them win 6-0. Whilst I was impressed with their football skills, it was their teamwork that impressed me the most. I realised how quickly they are maturing and when we return there is only 15 weeks left until the end of Year 9. Where is that time going?

I won't pretend I'm not looking forward to the Easter break as its one of my favourite times of the year. I wish you a Happy Easter and look forward to returning in the summer term.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 9

Mr Fielden

Assistant Head of Year 9

### **WEEK 30 - Friday 12 May 2023**

It has been a bit of a strange couple of weeks and at times I feel like I have been doing the hokey kokey, in out, in out, of school. Bank holidays and strike days mean the students have had rather a broken few weeks but, as always, they have managed to carry on in a sensible manner and engage in their lessons and that's not always an easy task when you have broken weeks.

This week I delivered an assembly about VE day. There were some funny looks and giggles as they entered the hall to 1940s music. However, they listened with intent to Winston Churchill's speech when he declared that the Second World War was over. We looked at the story of three different people who had been part of the war effort and who had come through it to celebrate on VE Day and I asked them to imagine being sent to war in four years' time and facing what some of those people had to endure. They were also reminded that many of their great-grandparents may have been part of the war and celebrations.

I was so impressed with the way the students sat in silence and soaked up the information. School often gives us an opportunity to share snippets of history that we should not forget.

The school field is now open much to the relief of those who want to get on there and kick a ball about during their lunch break. However, apologies for the muddy condition some of them come home in but it is great to see them back out there.

Please remind your young person to bring their equipment and planner to school, a pen is essential.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 9

Mr Fielden

Assistant Head of Year 9

### **WEEK 32 - Friday 26 May 2023**

What a lovely week to end the first half to the summer term. The weather certainly has a positive impact on students and staff who are all out at lunch time enjoying the sun.

This week, our students in Year 9 have been involved in the Enterprise Day which takes on a Dragons Den type theme. Students split into groups and had to design their own product and market it. The final ten groups, who were chosen by their peers, had to pitch their product to the judging panel. All the students I spoke to really enjoyed the day and were inspired by an ex-pupil who returned to us to share his success in running his own company. It was great to hear him tell the students how he had grown up in Gipsyville (me too) and how at times he had failed in his quest to start a business, but he never gave up. Today he runs his own company based in Leeds and leads a team that works with famous people around the world. In his own words, "I wasn't the most successful at school but I had determination". I think a few seeds were sown today so look out for the entrepreneurs of the future from Hessle High School.

We return on the 5th of June to the last half term of Year 9. It's an important half term when assessments are done to enable the move forward to Year 10. Students need to attend, be on task and give it 100% for those last few weeks.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 9

Mr Fielden

Assistant Head of Year 9

### **WEEK 36 - Friday 30 June 2023**

We are approaching the end of the summer term and there is a lot to look forward to. However, we continue to prepare our students for the outside world and we emphasise the message that the simple things in the day-to-day routine of school enable our students to be prepared for learning.

We ask that our students turn up for school in the correct uniform with their equipment ready for a day of learning. This enables every student to start the day well.

In tutor time and lessons this week, we are relaunching our Behaviour Curriculum which has, at its heart, a focus on the 3 Ps:

Prepare - Prepare for dismissal tidy up and pack away

Present - Present yourself ready for dismissal, stand behind chairs, check uniform

Permission - Wait for permission to leave

When everyone follows the same structure the day flows smoothly.

Please ensure your young people have what they need for a great day.

Regards

Mrs Taylor

Head of Year 9

Mr Fielden

Assistant Head of Year 9