



8th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

We are nearing the end of the first term with us all being back in school during the pandemic and I would like to start by thanking families for all their support. It is always appreciated that parents/carers work with us to overcome any challenges we may face and COVID has certainly dealt us a few of those.

Despite the differences to school life as a result of the COVID safety measures, students and staff have been determined to keep making progress and enjoy school life. We have been working hard to provide high-quality Online Learning for all students. Many thanks for continuing to support your children to complete their Online Learning. This is such an important piece of work for students to engage with and complete, as it provides them with an opportunity to prepare for their assessments and examinations whilst developing and enhancing their independent learning skills. For the parents of Year 11 students who have mock exams in January, please ensure you discuss the work with your child. They have been set tasks on Moodle to complete over Christmas, so please check-in regularly with them about their progress towards completing it.

Well done to Year 10 who had mock exams and Year 8 and Year 9 who have sat midterm assessments this term. This will have been a valuable learning experience for them about how to prepare for assessments, which also provides useful information for teaching staff moving forward.

As well as students working with purpose and at pace in lessons, they have been involved in a range of enrichment activities. Due to national and local restrictions, I am aware that children will have fewer opportunities outside of school to be involved in activities and clubs than would usually be the case. Therefore, we have been focusing on providing as many enrichment activities as possible in school whilst keeping things COVID safe. Students have been engaging well with Flexible Learning Clubs and House competitions. It is good to have the buzz of the school community back and get the highly competitive House competition season underway.

Year 7 have had a busy half term, with a focus on Partners in Learning and how important it is to work together - with each other in class, with their teachers and with support from home. Year 7 also took part in a Children in Need exercise event earlier this term, raising money for charity but also enjoying being together and having fun as a year group.

Year 11 have had a series of sessions examining Post 16 education, where they have looked at the main Post 16 providers and have had a chance to see how they can apply and what to do when they are offered an interview. Students have also had the opportunity to work with ASK and find out about all the different levels of apprenticeships that there are from GCSE level through to degree level. Well done to all those students who have already put in applications.

This half term in Coaching, the Year 7 – 10 students have been working on the Wetherby High School 100 Heroes Project. Inspired by the Pride of Britain Awards and Journalist Tithiya Sharma, each Coaching Group was tasked with choosing two heroes that would represent their group. Students spent time researching and debating what a hero represented and had powerful conversations within sessions to argue their point. Students were particularly drawn to efforts that have been made by individuals since the start of the pandemic and it has been lovely to see not just national nominations but also local heroes, as well as some connected to our own organisation. The final 100 will be on show in Main Reception to reflect the thoughts and consensus of our whole school community.

With a school holiday fast approaching it is a good opportunity to make sure your child has all the correct uniform and equipment for school. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring students look smart and are equipped for lessons. Please see the link below for our uniform policy.

<https://wetherbyhigh.org.uk/uniform/>

Finally, due to COVID safe measures on school buses, school will finish on the last day of term on Friday 18th December at 11.15am.

We have the school decorated for Christmas now, with Christmas trees kindly donated by East Keswick Plant Centre, and it is looking and feeling very festive. We all wish you a very happy holiday and hope you get some quality time together as a family.

Key dates

Friday 11th December – Online Learning Deadline

Friday 18th December - End of term 11.15am finish

W/C 4th January – Year 7 Midterm Assessments

W/C 18th January – Year 11 Mock Exams

Wednesday 20th January – Year 7 PCE

Wednesday 10th February - MYCD

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Jefferson', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Samantha Jefferson
Headteacher