

Dear Families

As we have come to the end of another busy half term, I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on a few things.

Welcome back: Firstly, I am pleased to welcome our staff and students safely back home from their week-long skiing trip to Sappada in Italy. I was delighted with the positive feedback we have received about the attitude and behaviour of our students and I would like to thank them all for being fantastic ambassadors of the school. I would also like to extend this thanks to the staff who gave up their half term holiday to make this trip possible, I know the students appreciate the memories you have helped them to create.

Communication: As we move in to the second half of the academic year, I have been thinking about how we can best communicate with our parents and carers. Currently we use our website for basic school information, Twitter to keep you updated on events and activities and one to one meetings with staff regarding specific student issues. Whilst we will continue to use, and hopefully improve on these, I would also like to develop a more personal way of meeting face to face to update you on whole school progress. With this in mind, we are holding a parents/carers' information evening on Wednesday 20 March 2019 from 6.00pm to 7.30pm. At this we will present to you the current position of the school, our priorities moving forward and how we can all work together to achieve these. This is an open invitation to all parents/carers but so that we can cater for this with light refreshments, can I ask you to either complete the slip below and return it to Mrs Julie Newsome, my PA, or by ringing her on the school number 01924 405451. I look forward to hearing from you.

Attendance & Punctuality: I have mentioned in my previous letters that we have been pleased to report an increase in attendance. This has continued to be the case but to ensure we maintain this improvement can you please ensure that your child attends school at all times unless they have a genuine illness or another reason where leave of absence has been granted by the school. Alongside attendance we are now focusing on punctuality so that our students get into the necessary good habits for the workplace. Please remind your child that they should be in school by 8.30 so that they are in plenty of time to start their first lesson at 8.35am.

Road safety: You may be aware that Malcolm, our Kirklees colleague who undertook crossing patrol on the A62 between Liversedge Hall Lane and Roberttown Lane, has recently retired and until he is replaced this leaves this area unstaffed. It is therefore essential that all students take particular care when crossing this very busy road. During the next half term, as part of our ongoing safeguarding programme students will be receiving assemblies on road safety, but we would appreciate you reminding your child about the need to be extra careful.

Also, on this note we have seen an increase in the number of vehicles being parked on the road directly outside school at the start and end of the school day. This makes it very difficult for traffic to pass, meaning they sometimes mount the pavement causing significant danger to our students as they walk home. In the interest of safety can I please ask any one bringing or collecting students from school to park further way from school, nearer the bus bays, to avoid this congestion.

We have also noticed an increase in the number of students who are travelling to school on bicycles and whilst we wish to promote this form of transport, we are keen that they are safe when using their bikes. Therefore, from now on, in line with other schools, we will insist that all students bringing their bikes to school must wear helmets. They must register with the Pastoral Office where they will be issued with a bike license. Students can either keep their helmets with them or they can be left in the Pastoral Office. They will be locked away although, we cannot accept responsibility for any theft or damage to these. Please support us in ensuring that if your child does ride to school that they wear a helmet.

Catering: Following recent news stories I had a couple of recent enquiries regarding the food served in our kitchen. Our catering is contracted by Kirklees catering and they have informed us that at Spen Valley they do not provide any Halal meat meals as part of our school menu. However, there is a daily vegetarian option available for those students who wish to have an alternative to the standard meat-based meal. The vegetarian option is suitable for any children who follow the Islamic faith. You can view your child's current school menu by following the relevant link below: <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/schools/high-school-meals.aspx> If you have, any concerns or questions about the food your child is eating at school please contact our catering manager, Mr Andy Dyson.

Year 11 exams: Finally, with only a few weeks until their final exams our Year 11 students should now be focusing on their revision and we hope parents will encourage them to attend the intervention sessions that are held after school each day by their teachers. Also don't forget students (in all years) have access to GCSE pod or can use other online revision tools such as Seneca Learning, BBC bitesize or other subject specific sites. We were delighted with the number of parents/carers who attended our Revision Event earlier on in the year but if you require any additional information on how to support your child prepare for their exams please contact their Achievement Co-ordinator, Mrs Chappell.

Yours Sincerely



H Clacy
Headteacher



Spenn Valley High School Parent/Carer Information Evening

Wednesday 20 March 2019 6.00pm – 7.30pm

I will/will not be attending the Information Evening.

Student Name: Form:

Signed:Parent/Carer Date:.....

Please complete and return to Mrs Julie Newsome