



# Allerton Grange School

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Our Ref: MRp/BMa

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Dear Parent/Carer

## Thank you to the whole Allerton Grange community

In the middle of April, I could not envisage a time when we would have all our students back in school accessing a full curriculum offer. Yet, since September, that is exactly what we have achieved. Thanks to the collective will and commitment of staff and parents, students are accessing and thriving from a broad and balanced curriculum. It has been wonderful, this half term, to see them so engaged in their learning but also running around and socialising at break and lunchtime. Therefore, thank you to the staff who have embraced the COVID plans with such energy and creativity to make this work; and to all our parents who trusted us to provide an education experience in a COVID-safe environment. This truly has been an example of community spirit. The numbers below speak for themselves:

### 1. COVID update

#### • Attendance

Student attendance for half term one is 93%. Although this represents a fall on recent years, it is significantly above the *current* national average of 88%.

#### • Positive coronavirus cases

Over the course of this half term, we have recorded 18 positive cases among our students and 3 positive cases among staff. Following our internal track and trace system, we have identified 238 students as close contacts and these young people have had to self-isolate for a maximum of 14 days.

### 2. Extended provision after half term

We have had a very successful half term, despite all the issues related to COVID. We always intended to review provision at the end of the first half term. We are, therefore, planning to enhance our offer for the rest of the term. These plans include:

- **Live remote learning for sixth form students** – sixth form students who are self-isolating will have access to live lessons, following their normal timetable.
- **After-school clubs** – we are thankful to the PE, Music and Drama teachers who have found a safe COVID way of providing enrichment clubs after school. Please find the timetable for these clubs attached. Students wishing to take part in any sports clubs are expected to come to school in their PE kit.
- **Detentions** – the school will start to run after-school detentions from Monday 2 November. Each year group will have a specific day, which will run from 3pm to 3.45pm.
- **Assemblies and DEAR lectures** – Weekly year group assemblies and DEAR lectures will start to run again from Monday 2 November.



SCHOOL MEMBER



- **Trips** - we are reviewing procedures for school trips and working with Leeds City Council to plan for more trips in the New Year.

### 3. **New Sixth Form Block**

Our sixth form students and staff have been patiently waiting for the opening of their new learning centre. Some of them have been able to access the first floor since September but after half term they will have full access to the eight new classrooms, offices and social spaces. We are thrilled with the refurbishment and work will start in the spring on Phase 2 of the building work. Phase 2 began with a 'virtual' public consultation Q&A session, via MS Teams, on 22 October 2020. Thank you to those parents who were able to attend. You will be able to view the proposals on the council's online planning records tool, once the planning application has been submitted.

### 4. **New staff**

- **Curriculum Leader for Maths** - We are delighted to welcome Mr Alastair Smyth, new Curriculum Leader for maths. Mr Smyth has relocated after serving six years as an Assistant Headteacher in Dubai and will be joining us after half term.
- **Deputy Headteacher (i/c of Students' Personal Development)** - I am also pleased to announce that, earlier this week, we appointed Ms Lucy Saunders as our new Deputy Headteacher. She has experience of senior leadership in London and, most recently, at Rossett School, in Harrogate. We look forward to Ms Saunders taking up her new post in January 2021.

### 5. **Virtual parents' evenings** (via MS Teams appointment)

Our parent evening schedule will run as calendared but we will have to adopt a virtual set of procedures. Parents can book a 5-minute meeting, with each teacher, through MS Teams. Details of how to book and access your meeting will be circulated nearer the time. The first of these will be for Year 13 on Wednesday 11 November.

### 6. **Christmas charity appeal**

In light of the government's refusal to support Free School Meal families during the holidays, we have decided that our Christmas charity appeal, this year, will be local food banks. Rather than a traditional Christmas tree in reception, we will build a 'Food Collection Christmas Tree' made up of 25 food hampers. Jackie Close, Finance Assistant, is co-ordinating this project – so please, after half term, start bringing in donations for our food hampers and let us fill all 25 food boxes before we break up for Christmas. Students can bring their donations to reception at the beginning or end of the day.

Thank you for your continued support, it is valued more than ever.

Yours faithfully



Mike Roper  
Headteacher