



Malton School

A Specialist Science School

SUPPORT INSPIRE THRIVE

17th June 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Coronavirus Response Update

Following on from the government's announcement on Monday, and subsequent communication from the Department for Education on Tuesday afternoon, it is with regret that I have to inform you of the cancellation of a number of events that the school had very much hoped to deliver in this final half-term if the remaining Covid restrictions had been lifted with effect from 21st June. The decision of the government to delay the lifting of those restrictions for another 4 weeks, until 19th July, has meant that the school has to continue with its existing covid adjustments until that time. These will still include:

- The continued wearing of face masks by students on the corridors and in the toilets, and in other communal spaces inside the buildings, remains strongly encouraged by the government and by North Yorkshire County Council. We would appreciate your ongoing support with this.
- Year Group bubbles.
- Zoning across the school.
- Heightened hand washing and use of hand sanitiser.
- Maintenance of social distancing as far as possible.
- Seating plans for lessons and on school buses.
- Heightened ventilation in classrooms.

I have already written to the primary schools and to the parents of Year 6 children who are joining us in September to inform them that we have sadly been forced to cancel the planned Year 6 transition days. The Year 6 Induction Evening for parents will become an online event and transition materials will have to be virtual, as they were last year. I have also written to the primaries to cancel the planned Year 5 Taster Days.

I now also have to cancel the planned Year 11 Prom that was due on Wednesday 23rd June and the planned Year 13 Prom that was booked for Friday 2nd July. I have huge sympathy for the young people in these year groups who have had a very difficult two years and who have now been denied these events that provide a real celebration of their time together. I have a child in both Year 11 and Year 13 who are missing out on their events and have genuine empathy for the journey that the students in these year groups have had. We have considered whether we could move these events to the final week of term (i.e. after 19th July if restrictions are lifted then) but because the requirement to self-isolate will remain after 19th July we have taken the view that it would be irresponsible of the school to organise large social events, where effective track and trace would not be possible and where we might then end up having to ask hundreds of students to self-isolate for the first week of the summer

holidays (potentially ruining holiday plans for many families). I am saddened that we have had to make this decision but I can only ask for your understanding and support.

The school's Open Day, planned for Tuesday 6th July, has also been cancelled.

We are able to continue with the Sixth Form pre-Registration Day by moving it back to Monday 5th July. This is because the final date of compulsory education for all Year 11 students is 28th June. These students cease to be part of their former "bubbles" on that date and we can therefore organise an event that is for educational purposes and create a new "bubble". This is exactly the same reason to explain why the Summer School for Year 6 students can go ahead in the week commencing 9th August, because those students are no longer part of their former primary school bubbles and we can create a new bubble for them from that point.

The Year 10 sixth form experience morning can also go ahead on 7th July as that is an in-house event only involving our own Year 10 students.

Our Sports Day will not be able to go ahead as usual, even though it is planned for 20th July. This is because of our inability to effectively track and trace during that event, with the subsequent risk that a positive case or cases could result in a large proportion of the school population being required to self-isolate, running into the first week of the holiday and again ruining the plans of many families. We are however determined to provide the students the chance to compete and to challenge the existing records for each event. This will be delivered by the PE team during year group lessons before the end of term and we will be able to announce sports winners in the final week of term.

We won't be able to run a school concert or the Art Exhibition.

The small number of domestic school trips planned for these remaining weeks can go ahead with appropriate risk assessments and adjustments, as they only involve a single year group bubble.

I know that we are all looking forward to a much hoped for return to normality in September.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. S. Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rob Williams

Headteacher