



June 2017 Newsletter

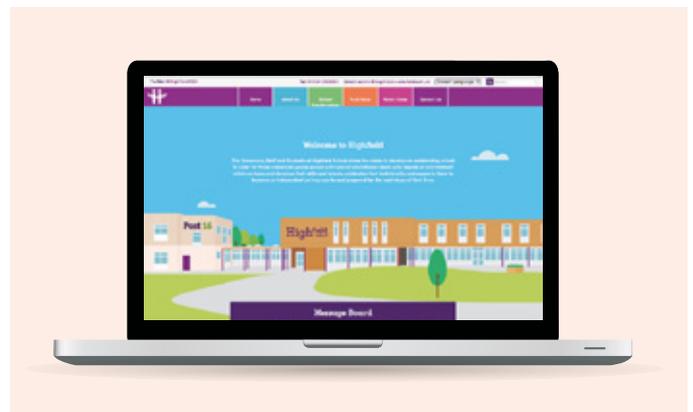


Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

It is with great excitement that I write to you with a few weeks left of this term. There have been many developments in such a short space of time and of course this is my first opportunity to formally say hello to you all.

Firstly, I would like to direct your attention to our new website and twitter account. The website has been designed to be easier to negotiate, give up to date news and of course a chance to celebrate the wonderful work of the pupils at Highfield School. I hope you will keep in regular contact through the website and of course through twitter. I have had feedback from parents saying they wanted a clearer way of getting information from school and I hope I have achieved this for you.

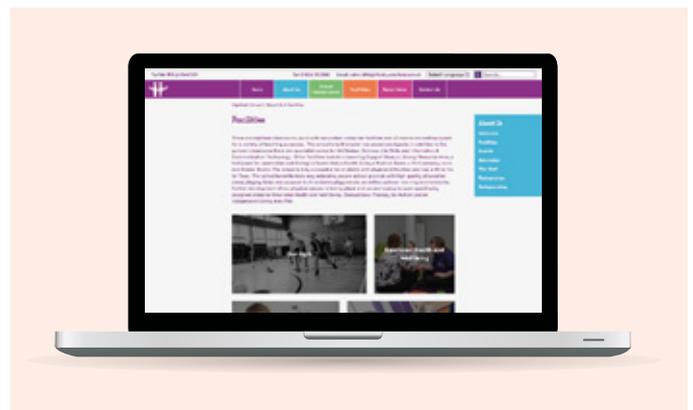
Not only have there been significant changes in governance of the school and the strategic leadership of the school has also changed since the Easter holiday. I would like to introduce William Taylor as the Chair of Governors and Jayne Crosse as our Vice-Chair. They have been working very closely with me to enable the changes that we will be making for September. Along with the changes to governors we also have a new Deputy Head Teacher Rebecca Thompson. Rebecca has many years' experience working in special education and her strength lies in improving teaching and learning. Rebecca is a member of the strategic leadership of the school and her roles and responsibilities are School Improvement. Rebecca and I are supported by our third member of the strategic team Pamela Liley the School Business Director.



Our transformed website!



Keep up to date easily with the new message board



Explore all our new pages at www.highfield-school.co.uk



A lot of the physical changes to the environment that are taking place in the closing weeks of this term are being project managed by Pamela. Pamela's strategic role of finance enables the school to meet the challenges of the future whilst planning for excellence for our young people.

As you are all aware the school underwent a Section 8 monitoring visit very soon into the start of my Headship. The OFSTED monitoring report is on the school website for you to read. I am really encouraged that HMI Mr Whittaker noticed how quickly the strategic team of the school have recognised and tackled the issues the school continued to have since the previous OFSTED visit in January 2016. I am sure when you read the report it is clear there is much more to do. On the school website you will be able to track our journey of school improvement. I am trying to ensure that we are highly transparent and honest with our families about the task that we have to do to improve the school. Thank you for all your ongoing support with this and the parents who have been involved this term, strengthening parental voice. I would like to personally apologise for not being able to welcome you all, however the very early OFSTED visit and the rapid improvements we needed to make have left me very little time to offer time to spend with you. However, I am more than happy to announce that I will be available during the last week of term for a parental 'check in' event where you can come and meet me and I can present to you the new vision for the school. I will be available in school at **4:15 on Thursday 20th July** where you can meet the strategic team. I will put this date and time on the school website and if you would like to attend could you return the reply slip attached to this newsletter.

Parental 'Check In' Event

Meet the Head Teacher and strategic team to learn about the new vision for Highfield School.

Thursday 20th July
from **4.15pm**

School Improvement and Changes Ahead...

The first project we have been working on this term is a change to an area of the school for Emotional Health and Well Being. It is so important that our young people have a designated area that meets their needs, where they can talk and feel supported. The new area has been designed by parents, pupils and staff along with huge amounts of innovation from Engaging Education. We are really excited that this area will be ready to launch in September. Along with this project the school is also moving forward with other physical changes to the environment including a designated Occupational Health space for Autism and an independent living space designated as a flat. The school is hoping to encapsulate the preparation for Adult Life with our curriculum and develop our autism provision.

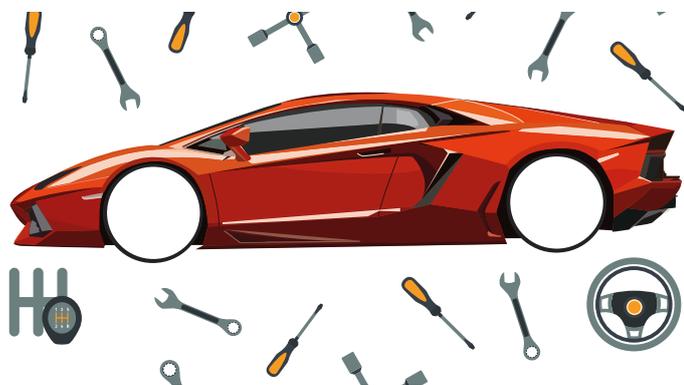
It is really important that the school responds to the HMI Monitoring visit and the January 2016 OFSTED report. As part of this response it is vital that the school undergoes rapid improvement. One of the areas is the leadership of the school. In September there will be a change to leadership structure with a new post of Lead Practitioner. The Lead Practitioner will be responsible for all pupils and families in designated year groups, reviews and EHC Plans along with pastoral and academic progress. There will be a Lead Practitioner for Years 6 and 7, one for Years 8/9, another one for Years 10/11 and finally one

for Post 16. This is an exciting time with the formation of the new structures for our young people in school. Along with these changes we are also changing our curriculum, assessment and reporting procedures, a brochure explaining these changes will be available for all parents in the autumn term, however in the meantime you can follow the developments on our website. I am sorry there is no final EHC Plan review this term and a small number of our parents have expressed their disappointment. Once I explained that we are moving to a new system in September and we will be involving parents far more in their child's education, parents understood that putting in place an 'arbitrary' review against the old system would not have been helpful at this stage. All reports this year do have clear indications of progress on them,

for the first time, and I am more than happy that the very deep changes we have made to the teaching of English and Mathematics has had a huge impact on the progress of the whole school.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to all the support you have shown this academic year and your words of kindness as we move forward embracing the school improvement journey we are now on. New class teachers for all pupils will be released in the final week of term along with reports. I hope you can join me and the rest of my team on **Thursday 20th July**, if not I would like to wish you all a wonderful summer holiday.

Miss J Kiernan
Head Teacher



Sneak preview of our exciting interior design project!

Parental 'Check In' Event Reply Slip

Please return this completed slip to school if you wish to attend our Parental 'Check In' Event on **Thursday 20th July from 4.15pm.**

Parent/Carer's Name:

Pupil's Name:

For more information visit www.highfield-school.com,
email admin@highfield.wakefield.sch.uk
or follow us on twitter [@highfieldSEN](https://twitter.com/highfieldSEN)