



November 2017 Newsletter



Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

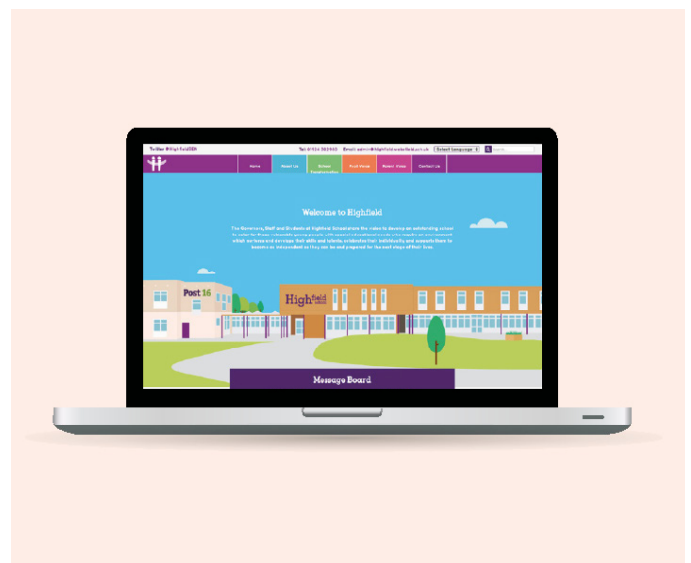
The Autumn term is now fully under way and this time of year is always such a joy in school due to the many celebrations that take place. I know the pupils have been enjoying looking at the celebrations around Halloween, Bonfire Night and of course very soon getting ready for Christmas! Many of our pupils are currently involved in Enterprise activities making items to sell at our Christmas Fayre on the 15th December. We hope you can put this date into your diaries and come and support the school. Any funds raised at the Fayre will be used by the Student Council to meet their priorities for school improvement they identified during the summer term.

There has been a slight change to one of our teaching teams this term and Mr Warren will be taking over the Lead Practitioner post for Years 8 and 9 with a new class teacher Mr Edwards. The parents of 8MW have been informed and I know the class has settled quickly into their routine with Mr Edwards.

Also, as in the previous newsletter 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. A few parents have already visited the website and added themselves to our school twitter account. I know a lot of parents ring into the school and a really quick way to get information is to follow us on twitter.

Anti-bullying Week (13th November)

We are excited to be promoting anti-bullying week this year with a launch of our new Student Mentor scheme. Our older pupils in years 10 and 11 have been volunteering to complete training to become a Student Mentor. As part of their training we have looked at the school rules, bullying and its effects on a child. Each student mentor will be signing a contract as part of their new role, they will gain a certificate, badge and High Visibility Jacket. Please look out for our launch of Student Mentors during Anti-bullying week with further details on our school website.



Our transformed website!
Visit www.highfield-school.co.uk



01924 302980



www.highfield-school.co.uk



@highfieldSEN



Project Search

We are very excited that our first internships at Pinderfields Hospital have been settling into their new jobs. This is an amazing opportunity for our young people in Post-16 and it enables progression for our pupils from KS3 and KS4. Below is some further information about Project Search so you can see what a great opportunity this is.

The Mid Yorkshire Hospital Project SEARCH Internship Programme has started this term, based at Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield. The programme is a partnership between the Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust, Highfield School, Wakefield Local Authority and HFT, a supported employment charity.

Seven interns have been successfully inducted onto the programme and have started their job placements in different departments on the Pinderfields Hospital site including Portering, Laundry Services, Administration, Maternity Ward, Sterilisation and Pharmacy. All seven have made a fantastic start and are really enjoying learning to do a real job in a real workplace.

The interns and the team were visited by Martin Barkley, the Chief Executive of the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust who expressed his support and admiration for the programme, and wished the interns the best possible success.

Safeguarding

I am sure your child made you aware before the half-term break they had earned a social afternoon due to continued hard work, this was also advertised on our website. This social afternoon was planned and led by Senior Leaders in the school and all staff within the school were given time to complete vital Safeguarding training to ensure that all staff have current and up to date knowledge.

I would like to thank all the hard work of staff during the training afternoon and of course the wonderful behaviour of all the pupils who made the social time a real joy for the senior leadership team.

Positive Behaviour System

So many of our pupils are so well behaved and motivated within lessons we have introduced a new traffic light system in class for our pupils. The traffic lights allow us to reward pupils that have 'Green' days highlighted in the home/school diary for lessons throughout the days. They can gather merit stickers and work towards certificates. This has been introduced this week and pupils have been informed during assemblies. Already we have had pupils talking about their positive days in school and we hope they have continued these conversations at home.

For pupils who do struggle in lessons to follow the school rules:

1. Respect (for everyone)
2. Ready to learn
3. Safe

The traffic lights do pupils to visually see and understand when they are reaching 'amber' system and this prompts them to think of different choices. Of course for some pupils who do reach 'red' on the traffic light there will be consequences and this means they are supported to complete work and reflect on their behaviour during break times. If you would like to adopt a similar system at home, please get in touch with your child's Lead Practitioner and we will be happy to help out with this.

Some Further Information for you....

Attendance and Holiday Requests – Please do not book a holiday before you have been given permission.

I would like to bring your attention to the information on the school website regarding holiday requests. I know in previous years that holidays out of term time have been given often and regularly, due to the needs of our pupils'. Unfortunately, this cannot be the case any longer and I need to consider very carefully when a holiday request is asked for. I would ask parents not to book any holidays before you have checked with the school. This should be a letter to myself and I will reply to you very quickly. Once I receive your letter I will check if your son/daughter has had any previous holidays in the previous year (from the dated letter) and also what their % attendance for that year is. If holidays have already been granted and/or attendance has fallen below 95% then I will not be able to authorise a holiday request. I hope you understand that the school monitors attendance very carefully and whilst we would like to support holiday requests we need to be very mindful of attendance data when granting these requests.

Can you help us out? We need a parent volunteer to help launch a parent/teacher training video for our new review days. Please get in touch with Miss Kiernan if you can come into school and help us produce this video!

Pupil Review Days

Please find below dates for pupil review days along with a calendar of events within school for this term. All of these can be found on our school website.

Over the next week you will receive a separate letter so you can choose a time slot for your review day and a copy of our new structured conversation pro-forma that has been developed with parents, along with the letter and pro-forma we will be sending home a Parent Guide to Assessment. The review day is an opportunity for you to gain important progress information on Mathematics and English alongside setting some targets for after Christmas for Preparation for Adult Life. We urge all our parents to attend these days these are our reporting opportunities to give you vital information about progress. This academic year we will not be giving end of year reports but using three review days to explain your child's progress.

As always at this time of year I look forward to seeing you over the forthcoming weeks and I know that our families will be preparing for Christmas. If I do not see you before, have a wonderful festive break has a family. Please take a look at our parent calendar attached, also on our website as a guide for the events taking place the rest of this term.

	AM	PM
7/8 RG	Wednesday 29 th Nov	Wednesday 29 th Nov
7/8 KW	Wednesday 29 th Nov	Wednesday 29 th Nov
7 CR	Monday 27 th Nov	Thursday 30 th Nov
7 PH	Monday 27 th Nov	Thursday 30 th Nov
8 MW	Thursday 7 th Nov	Thursday 30 th Nov
8 LG	Thursday 7 th Nov	Thursday 30 th Nov
8/9 SSk	Tuesday 5 th Dec	Tuesday 28 th Nov
9 AB	Tuesday 5 th Dec	Tuesday 28 th Nov
9 RPa	Tuesday 5 th Dec	Tuesday 28 th Nov
10 AW	Tuesday 28 th Nov	Wednesday 29 th Nov
10 RPi	Tuesday 28 th Nov	Wednesday 29 th Nov
9/11 LMc	Thursday 30 th Nov	Thursday 7 th Dec
11 SN	Friday 1 st Dec	Friday 1 st Dec
11 SC	Friday 1 st Dec	Friday 1 st Dec



Week Beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30 th October	2:15 KS4 Assembly Return After Half Term			2:15 KS3 Assembly	
6 th November	2:15 KS4 Assembly			2:15 KS3 Assembly	
13 th November	2:15 KS4 Assembly	Anti-Bullying Week and Launch of KS4 Student Mentors			Children in Need Non-Uniform 50p Donation
20 th November	2:15 KS4 Assembly			2:15 KS3 Assembly	
27 th November	2:15 KS4 Assembly			2:15 KS3 Assembly	
4 th December	2:15 KS4 Assembly			2:15 KS3 Assembly Christmas Pantomime Aladdin (Afternoon)	
11 th December	2:15 KS4 Assembly O-Track Assessment Point Deadline English, Maths and Spoken Language			2:15 KS3 Assembly	Whole School Christmas Fayre and Performance Pop up Café Post-16 Open Day
18 th December	2:15 KS4 Assembly		Christmas Dinner for Whole School	2:15 KS3 Assembly	Last Day Non-Uniform 50p Donation to help purchase more sensory fidgeters for pupils