



## GUISELEY SCHOOL

17 November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to give you an update on a couple of the key focus areas in school for Year 8 at the moment, some from recent weeks, and some that we will be focusing on between now and the end of term.

Recently, we have had an assembly input on pro-social behaviour within our local community, and the response from many of our students in Year 8 has been excellent. The assembly input was embedded in our core value of 'Care', and students have pledged to make a conscious effort to demonstrate pro-social behaviour within the community over the coming weeks – something that will be especially wonderful to see at this time of the year as we move towards the Christmas break.

This week's assembly has had a focus on attendance and the importance of attending school, and lessons, as often as is possible. We have a robust procedure in school around absence from school, and a key focus for us currently is developing further the support for students as they return to school following an absence. This includes support through the Form Tutor, the Pastoral Team, and subject teachers during lessons. We would like to take this opportunity to update parents/carers that we have a new Attendance Officer, Helen Holmes. Helen has joined us following the retirement of Sandra Tanner this half term. Helen looks forward to working with our families and students to support school attendance. Please can I also remind parents/carers that all absences must be reported to the Attendance Team via the absence line 01943 872315 each day of absence.

Alongside this work on attendance support, we currently have work ongoing with Year 8 around Attitude to Learning in lessons, and we would encourage all parents/carers to look at page 5 of the student planner where the Attitude to Learning criteria is explained. The student planner remains the key tool for communication between home and school, and we appreciate the checking and signing of the planner that you do each week.

Our whole-school focus on reading continues, and the recent Book of the Month (1918: Coming Home) has proved to be very popular, particularly with Year 8 students. During some recent student voice interviews, 100% of students could tell us the book they are currently reading and could talk about the plot and characters to staff. This is wonderful to see and shows how much our young people are engaging with their reading – and I want to thank you for your continued support with this and the encouragement you are showing students at home, as well as monitoring and signing off the reading homework each week on pages 17 onwards in the student planner.

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We have recently given a Knowledge Organiser booklet to every student in Year 8. We are incredibly excited to be able to give your child these books as they have been put together by subject teachers to set out for you and your child exactly what it is they need to know and remember over the course of the year at Guiseley School. Students can use this to help make progress. At Guiseley School, we can say our students are making good progress through our curriculum when they are able to remember more, know more and do more in our subjects and lessons. The Knowledge Organiser booklet sets out exactly what it is the students need to know and remember in each subject. You can support your child by looking through the booklet with them, asking them questions about the content, and by asking your child what they can remember about content they have covered in lessons. Your child can use this booklet to support home learning tasks and to prepare for our end of cycle assessments in January. It should be brought to school every day and will be used in lessons where appropriate.

Our assembly next week will be delivered by Mrs Searle, Faculty Lead for Religious Studies and PSHE, and looks at the topic of Anti-Racism, covering different religious perspectives on the topic as well as reiterating the Guiseley Approach in reporting and dealing with this in school. This will be an opportunity for some input for the whole Year group on this important topic, which will then be discussed further during Form time.

The final thing is to remind you that tomorrow (Friday 18 November) is a training day, and the school will be closed to students.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support this term so far, and we in the Pastoral Team look forward to working together with you as we move through this year.

Yours sincerely

Sam Lord  
Pastoral Leader, Year 8

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