



Boroughbridge High School

19th July 2024

FAO All parents/carers

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of the Summer Term, as a school community, we have much to celebrate.




Your feedback

Thank you for your responses to the Parent/Carer questionnaire. We had 117 responses the results of which, when compared to the Ofsted Parent View questionnaire (May 2023), recognise the measurable progress that we've made since then. Responses were much more positive around students being happy at school, feeling safe, SEND students getting the support they need, high expectations, your child doing well, letting parents/carers know how your child is doing, school supporting your child's wider personal development and recommending BHS to another parent. Responses which were virtually the same were for being aware of what your child will learn during the year, that there is a good range of subjects available and that your child can take part in clubs and activities. Thank you also for your longer comments which are being used to inform our planning for next year.

Our tools for improvement next year

Whilst we are delighted with the progress that we have made, we are well aware that we are only part of the way on our improvement journey. This year the introduction of Phases of Learning has been one of our key vehicles in driving up standards of behaviour and learning in the classroom.

We have two tools in particular which, alongside the Phases of Learning, will support the next stage of our improvement journey.

 Whole class work Teacher and Student Talk		 Group and pair work Teacher and Student Talk		 Individual work No talk	
Teachers	Students	Teachers	Students	Teachers	Students
Will explain and give instructions	Listen and focus Don't talk	Will move around the room to check progress and give help if needed	Focus on work Ensure talk is about the activity being carried out	Will move around the room to check progress and give help, if needed or may, if appropriate, monitor the class from the front of the classroom	Focus on work and do not speak to others Put up their hand if they need help
Will select students to answer questions for recap and retrieval	Answer questions when asked		Listen to ideas from others		Do not let others see or copy their work
Will ask students to put up a hand if they have an idea to share during discussion	Put up a hand if they want to ask a question or have something to contribute and wait for the teacher to ask them to speak		Help other students that they are working with		Keep their book or folder organised including sticking in sheets
	Don't shout out answers (even if their hand is raised)		Keep their book or folder organised including sticking in sheets		

Firstly, we have been working with students and staff on our core values. We've discussed how our core values underpin everything that we do and every decision that we make. We have captured these to be that we are **Ambitious, Respectful, Resilient**

Secondly, we are working on **what makes an excellent Boroughbridge High School student** so that we can update how we report on students' approach to learning at each progress review (tracking) point.

Expectations Evenings

An important part of our communication is our Expectations Evenings at the beginning of the Autumn Term for parents and carers for each Year Group outlining key information including curriculum, phases of learning, behaviour for learning, attendance and using My Child at School. You will have the opportunity at these evenings to ask questions about any aspect of school life. **These will be held at 6p.m. on Monday 9th September for Year 7, Wednesday 11th for Year**

Headteacher: Kathryn Stephenson, BA (Hons)

8 and 9 and Thursday 12th for Years 10 and 11. We'll send a reminder after the Summer break and ask you to e-mail if you wish to attend. If you have children in more than one year group, then please choose the time which is most convenient for you.

Mobile phones – a change to our Policy

We are also making a change to our mobile phone policy which we are confident will further increase focus on learning. Our current mobile phone policy is that students' phones cannot be visible in the school building. However, we have reviewed our policy following our work with the Behaviour Hub, research into the effects of mobile phones in schools and, in light of DfE guidance which was published in February 2024. In this guidance, it outlines that

By the time pupils arrive at secondary school, ownership of mobile phones is ubiquitous – by the age of 12, 97% of children own a mobile phone.

The use of mobile phones in schools leads to distraction and disruption and can exacerbate misbehaviour and bullying. Many schools that have successfully implemented policies prohibiting the use of mobile phones report that their pupils feel safer and happier.

Without access to their mobile phones and the unfiltered internet access provided, pupils can focus on the present, the people around them and their education. Without the disruption mobile phones cause, school staff can spend more time teaching and supporting pupils.

It provides 4 recommended approaches,

- a) No mobile phones on the school premises
- b) Mobile phone handed in on arrival
- c) Mobile phones kept in secure location, which the pupil does not access throughout the school day
- d) Never used, seen or heard

As part of assemblies this week, I've asked students which of the options they think would be most appropriate for our school. The overwhelming feedback has been for Option D. This has also been reflected in staff feedback. Therefore, from the start of the Autumn Term in September, our policy will be that **students keep possession of their mobile phones on the strict condition that they are never used, seen or heard on the school premises or grounds.** This seems to be the most reasonable way forward as it takes into account the fact that, being in a rural area, students being in possession of a mobile phone increases their safety on the journey to and from school. Also, currently the vast majority of our students follow our expectations and I am confident that they will continue to do so without the need for us to routinely take their phones from them. As currently, if a mobile phone is used, seen or heard then it will be confiscated, stored in the Office and may be collected at the end of the day. If a phone is confiscated three times then an afterschool detention will be issued and, if this is repeated, then the student in question will be asked to hand their phone in on their arrival at school and collect it at the end of the day.

We appreciate that you may need to contact your child through the day and, if so, then you should call the Main Office on 01423 323540 or e-mail at schooladmin@boroughbridgehigh.com

Staffing changes

Our thanks go to Mr. Chittock, a member of our Site Team, who leaves us at the end of this week. Over the last few years, we have been very grateful for the way in which he has used his many and varied skills to improve our school environment. We wish him well for the future.

Having welcomed Mr. Sands, Head of Computer Studies/ICT and Ms. Salter, Science Teacher in the last few weeks, we look forward to also welcoming Ms. Davies to the Mathematics team and Mrs. Cave to our Modern Foreign Languages team in September.

Our thanks go to the teachers who have been filling these positions; Mr. Vartic and Mrs. Llaurodo. We appreciate the commitment that they have shown towards our students and wider school community over the last year and wish them well for the future.

Friends of Boroughbridge High School

Following successful fundraising this year, the Friends of Boroughbridge High School are keen to continue their good work. You are warmly invited to their next meeting at **6p.m. on Wednesday 18th September at school** where you can bring along your ideas for future events, find out how you can help the school and see if there are any small tasks you might like to help with.

Sixth Form Update

On 18th June, the Council's Executive Member resolved to lower the age range of Boroughbridge High School from 11-18 to 11-16, by closing the Sixth Form provision with effect from 31st August 2024.

School meals

For the past four years, we have heavily subsidised the cost of our catering service, striving to source the best ingredients and work closely with our suppliers to keep costs down. However, the past two years have seen significant increases in food and energy costs. As a result, we have made the difficult decision to remove the drink from our meal deal offering bringing us in line with other schools. We will continue to offer a hot meal and dessert for £2.80 and ensure that water is available from water stations. Additionally, we will continue to subsidise free school meals to the value of £2.80, which is more than we receive in funding. We will maintain a variety of options, including hot main meals, hot sandwiches, grab-and-go items, sandwiches and salads. Our hot meal range will start from £2, and sandwiches from £1.60.

End of term and start of the Autumn Term 2024

We are looking forward to our whole school assembly on Friday 19th when we can celebrate our achievements as a whole school community. **A reminder that school will close at 1.30p.m. on that day with students returning to school on Tuesday 3rd September 2024.** If you have any questions or queries then please contact us at schooladmin@boroughbridgehigh.com. This is checked periodically over holiday time.

On behalf of the staff team, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you and your family a happy Summer break.

Yours sincerely,

K Stephenson

Miss K. Stephenson
Headteacher