

Our Ref: RBR/FSC-1305WSL

Friday 13th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Times are tough. The perfect storm of Brexit, Covid-19 and War is taking its toll on all of us and we are all worse off at the moment. Many of our families are struggling to make ends meet and we are all having to make compromises that we would never have dreamed of a couple of years ago. We've grown up in a world where we assumed that every generation would be better off than the previous one and to now realise that this is not necessarily the case, makes us fear for our futures and those of our children.

In these uncertain times, I could not be prouder of our students. Speaking to our Year 11s, who haven't experienced a 'normal' school year since they were in Year 8, I am often overwhelmed by their positivity, ambition, character, resilience and lust for life. Their approach towards their exams has been exemplary and, as this week marks the official start of their exam season, we wish them good luck throughout these next six taxing weeks.

We know there is precious little money to go around and that is why it is more important than ever for schools to offer a broad range of experiences that our students might not be able to enjoy anywhere else at the moment. This letter is full of examples of where our staff go above and beyond to provide students with opportunities to do more and be more, both in and out of lessons. When there is a lack of leadership and credibility at the top of society, I am very proud that our school is full of wonderful individuals and resolute communities that display strong values and mutual support.

Student Successes

Congratulations to Harriet Bolton in Year 11, who has just been successful in her audition for Northern Ballet School with a DaDa scholarship; a scholarship awarded to the most talented dancers with the most potential of a job in the industry. For her audition piece, she worked hard preparing a solo dance, song and monologue. She also successfully auditioned for SLP College, Stella Mann, Performers College and Bird College. This is a fantastic achievement and we're very proud of Harriet and wish her all the best for her future career.

Further congratulations go to Year 9 student, Damon McCourt, who was judged 'Star of the Show' in the Barton Lions School Arts Project. Damon's work was judged by local artists, Tim Needham and Janet Cox, as well as the President of Barton Lions, Rob Hutchinson. They said Damon's piece was 'terrific' and are now arranging for this to be displayed at Tesco, so it can be appreciated by the whole community. Thanks to Miss Charlton for coordinating all of our entries.



Ben Andrew has made his senior Saturday debut for Barton Town Cricket Club and received his first 'baggy' (cap). This is a superb achievement for a Year 8 student.

Spencer Leaning also made his debut as a ball boy at the MKM stadium last month, a thoroughly enjoyable experience.



In my last letter, I told you about some of the lengths our students are going to in order to raise funds for their once in a lifetime trip to Thailand in partnership with Outlook Expeditions. Year 10 student, Thomas

Keates, has cycled 554 miles of his 874 miles (the distance from Lands End to John 'O Groats) despite getting three punctures and Covid-19 again! He has already surpassed his £500 target but still has a way to go, so would appreciate any further support and donations people can give. You can keep up to date with regular progress reports on his JustGiving page, where you can also donate, as Thomas completes his mission – [click here to support!](#)

Experiences for Our Students

Our Scunthorpe United Reading Stars loved their latest session at Glanford Park. They had a workshop with Breis the rapper and I was lucky enough to accompany them. Mr Stevenson said *'The students really enjoyed the day and there were plenty of positive things said about both Breis and the experience as a whole. When asked on the way back to school, the group all really liked Bries' energy and felt that he was really entertaining. One student from the group has subsequently bought Bries' book online and has come to show it off - she said that she has read parts of it and really likes it so far.'*



On Wednesday 4th May, we held our first in-person Careers Fair since Covid-19. Miss Stuart, Employability Mentor, wrote, *'After a difficult few years with social distancing measures and Covid-19, we were excited to hold a Careers Fair to educate and inspire our students around different careers and their personal futures.'*

We were delighted to welcome an array of colleges, further education providers, businesses and organisations, including Wyke College, Humberside Police, RAF, NCS, Hull Business Training Centre, Ask Apprenticeships, Hull University, and Wren Kitchens to join us for the day.

Our students were given booklets to engage with the professionals and find out more about their futures and what is in store for them. We had some amazing feedback about how respectful and confident our students were when asking questions.

Year 9 student, Kiana, got a special shout out from asking unique questions to gain a deeper understanding about the employers and for being so polite and confident. Year 10 students, Bobbi and Honey said, "It was an amazing way to be able to understand our future and we really enjoyed speaking to everyone and getting a better idea of what we would like to do". Thank you to all those who attended to make it such a great day and experience for our students. '



Our Polish club is still thriving and Mrs Durda has been attending virtual training sessions hosted in Poland for teachers around the world to support Polish teaching. Miss Durda has written, 'Last weekend I had a message from a person who represents The General Consul of the Republic of Poland in Great Britain. They heard about Hanna and Max Wojtala, and their success in the competition, and are impressed about the support we receive from Baysgarth School. They asked me for some more details about Polish Inspire because they want to write about us on the website of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland.' This is great news and enhances our reputation far outside of our local community. We will share more very soon!

Year 10 and Year 11



It was lovely to see Year 11 students receiving their leavers hoodies last Friday and to see them wearing them around the school with pride.

It's been an absolute privilege to spend time with our Year 11s (and some Year 10s) who have been preparing for exams with an unbelievably positive attitude. For our Year 11 students, their last 'normal' school year was when they were in Year 8, so to see them so focused, positive and determined to show the world what they can do is just fantastic.

This week is the first week of whole school exams, but students have already been sitting exams, including their MFL speaking tests, Food practicals, Media exams and Drama assessed practicals prior to this. I was astounded and overwhelmed by Year 10 and 11 Drama students, who gave mind-blowing performances of scenes from well-known plays, but also delivering original pieces they had composed on issues as diverse as gender equality and the impact of the pandemic. The level of talent in our school is incredible and our teachers are skilled in bringing out the best in them.

Next week, the exam season will hit full swing with eight exams taking place, including Biology, English and Maths which involve the entire Year 11 cohort. Students have been working incredibly hard and will be attending revision sessions the night before an exam. There is no doubt they are ready to shine. However, it is the longest exam season in history, so it is important that students are reminded to take regular breaks from revision and ensure they look after their physical and mental health. To support this, Year 11s will be having additional breaks throughout the school day to ensure they're ready to perform at their best for each exam.

Fire Alarms

This ambition, commitment and focus from our students cannot be put at risk from the actions of a tiny minority who have set off the fire alarm in recent weeks. We have gone for many years without a malicious fire alarm at Baysgarth and every time it has been set off this year we have identified the culprits within five minutes of the alarm being triggered, as every alarm point is monitored by CCTV. Every student who has set off the alarm has been excluded for the offence and some have lost their place at Baysgarth.

I will not allow the actions of a few to impact upon the life chances of the vast majority of our amazing students. With the exam season upon us, a fire alarm now could jeopardise the chances of our Year 11 students, as well as putting other members of our local community at risk if there is a genuine fire and the fire engines are attending a false alarm at Baysgarth.

Therefore, I will be asking Governors to review our Behaviour Policy to include a section specifically relating to fire alarms, allowing us to permanently exclude students who deliberately set off the fire alarm, particularly during the exam season. I would ask for your support with this stance, and to reiterate to your children the significance that a malicious act could have on others inside and outside the school.

Coming Soon

We're really looking forward to our trip to New York during the half term break. Mr Scruton's leadership experience trips have become legendary at Baysgarth and we know our students are really looking forward to another once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We wish them a safe journey and look forward to hearing about the amazing things they get up to.

Rehearsals for our school production of 'Matilda - The Musical' have been going well and our students are excited about performing in public for the first time in a couple of years. Tuesday 5th July will be our first showing to primary schools and our show dates to the public are Wednesday 6th, Thursday 7th and Friday 8th July. Refreshments will be available before the show and during the interval with proceeds going towards the Thailand Outlook Expedition. We'd love to have a full house for every night so please support the school and our students once we release ticket details.

Headway

We're also pleased to announce two new leadership posts at our on-site alternative provision centre, Headway. We very much look forward to welcoming Miss Murch and Mr Lemon to the team in September. Between them, they share a wealth of knowledge and experience and we are confident they will enhance the provision for all students at the centre.

SEND

We're very proud of our fantastic SEND team, headed up by Dr Emma Rice-Adams. Click [here](#) to read a couple of recent newsletters to give you a flavour of what they are working on at the moment. We're in the process of expanding this team ready for September, with the addition of an Assistant SENCO, a new SENSO and two new Senior Learning Support Assistants. We are committed to supporting all of our students and giving them the best possible start in life, irrespective of their needs.

House News

As you know, we postponed the introduction of our new House system for a year as our students needed as much continuity as possible as a consequence of the pandemic. We're now really excited that these plans can come into operation from September. It seems a long time ago now that our community voted for the names of our new Houses and we can't wait to launch the new House system, tutor groups and to recruit our new Head of House. Our students will be heavily involved in shaping these new communities and there'll be lots of communication about this in the coming weeks.

Year 6 to 7 Transition

Our staff are working hard at the moment, visiting our partner primary schools and finding out as much information as possible about current Year 6 students to help us with transition.

Our programme of Transition events, including our Transition Youth Club and Summer School, are all ready to go for the next few weeks, and we've launched details of our Chromebook leasing scheme with our new parents and carers. [Find out more here](#). We can't wait for our new students to join us!

Federation

Thanks to the members of our community who have responded to our consultation on the federation and to those who attended our public consultation meetings. Mrs Potterton and I are really excited about the benefits to both schools that federation will bring and we read all of your responses to the consultation. A reminder this closes on **Tuesday 7th June** and if you missed our public events, you can see a copy of the slides we produced which address some of the questions raised in the consultation [here](#) and find the link to the consultation form [here](#).

In the News

There have been several reports in the news over the last week about the National Tutoring Programme, designed to support students to recover quickly from the effects of the pandemic. The government has threatened to 'name and shame' schools that haven't been using this programme effectively. Baysgarth has always seen this programme as an opportunity to provide extra support for our students and has participated enthusiastically as it is the right thing to do for our students.

We have not engaged with buying in tutoring from private companies, using tutors that are not known to our children. This is the side of the scheme that has brought the most criticism in the national press. Instead, we are using our own staff to deliver sessions to students. So far, we have delivered over 500 hours of tutoring, delivering to more than 350 of our students. We don't know of any other school that has provided a higher level of service than this and I'm very proud of our staff for going above and beyond to give this extra support to students.

As part of this commitment to our students, we have been delivering compulsory after school sessions for our Year 10 students for the last two terms. This has been a huge undertaking and has focused on enabling them to reinforce learning in their Option subjects. These sessions

come to an end this week as we focus our efforts on the Year 11 exams, but I want to thank our students for their commitment to these sessions and for your support as parents as we strive to support them to achieve their very best next summer.

Safeguarding

As part of our ICE curriculum, we have been talking to students in school about county lines and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). County lines is not a new thing; you may have heard about it on the news or in TV shows like Hollyoaks. But beyond the headlines and scripts, it's a stark reality for many young people **and is an issue of concern across East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire (Humberside Police)**. Young people aged 14-17 are most likely to be targeted by criminal groups but there are reports of children as young as seven being groomed into county lines, with primary school children being seen as easy targets because they're less likely to get caught.

This year at Baysgarth, our Year 9 students have studied county lines in depth since March and all students from Years 7-10 were provided with an overview as part of their Inspire lessons last week. These are the things we have been looking at in school:

- What makes a person vulnerable?
- How are they groomed?
- How do the gangs then ensure that the drug runner is in debt to them (mugging)?
- Are they ever able to leave the gang?
- What are the consequences of being involved?
- The wider effects on friends, family, the community etc.
- The reality - real life cases that have ended in death.

Humberside Police are working hard to end this type of abuse and need help from everyone, both in school and within the local community, to spot the signs early of county lines and CCE.

Below are some of the signs of county lines and CCE that we need YOU to look out for so we work together with Humberside Police, the local police and local support services to help any victims.

- Going missing for periods of time or regularly returning home late
- Skipping school or being disruptive in class
- Having new things that you don't understand how or from where
- Having lots of money all of a sudden
- Having mood swings and changes in behaviour
- Using drugs and/or alcohol and often being hungover
- Carrying a weapon
- Signs of unexplained physical harm, such as bruising and cigarette burns
- Having new friends or partners (who might be a lot older) and ignoring old friends
- Secrecy around their phone and potentially a new phone
- Being shady about what they are up to, or alternatively boasting about a new gang, money or experiences

If you have any concerns in relation to the above, please contact the school, the Police or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Alternatively, you can visit <https://notinourcommunity.org/> or <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/child-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines> to find out more information.

With Me In Mind

We are embarking on an exciting new partnership with the new Mental Health Support Team (MHST) for North Lincolnshire, 'With Me in Mind'. The new project will see the MHST working collaboratively with education settings to help meet the mental health needs of children and

young people focusing on early intervention and prevention. This is an additional service to other mental health support that already exists.

We will be welcoming James Rollings (Education Mental Health Practitioner) into school, who will be based on site for one full day each week. James is trained to deliver both one-to-one and group interventions for a variety of low level and emerging mental health presentations, offering support to young people and their families in relation to worries, anxiety, low mood, fears and simple phobias. You can view the programme on offer in more detail [here](#).



WITH ME iN MIND NHS

Who are with Me in Mind?

- The With Me in Mind team offer emotional wellbeing support to children and young people in Schools and Colleges
- We can offer education sessions and advice for mental health difficulties such as feeling low, anxiety/worries and phobias. If needed, we can also offer group intervention or 1:1 support for these difficulties
- We also offer advice and support to education staff and parents/carers
- Where needed, we can support children and young people to access specialist service if this is required.

If you think you/ your child could benefit from some support please speak with a member of staff in school who can discuss this with us.

For further information please visit:

  www.withmeinmind.co.uk

 @withmeinmindnorthlincs



Other News

During the pandemic, we couldn't use the reval machines in school to add money on to student balances, for hygiene reasons. These machines are coming to the end of their life and we have decided not to replace them, as we don't feel this is cost efficient. Therefore, all parents and carers will have to continue with the current arrangements, which are adding money online via [ParentPay](#), with Student Support taking cash and adding on to accounts in emergency situations.

Celebrating our Staff

Thursday 26th May is '[National Thank a Teacher Day](#)' and it would be wonderful if you could support this initiative. Last year, many of our staff received a lovely virtual thank you postcard from parents which I know was massively appreciated. If you could spare a few minutes to fill in a nomination form then please [click here](#).

We've finished where we started, celebrating people with the values and attitude that earn respect. Baysgarth is full of them, staff and students, and this is one of the many reasons I am proud to be part of this community.

We wish all our families a restful weekend.

Yours faithfully



Mr Richard Briggs
Head Teacher