

Our Ref: RBR/FSC1507EOY

Monday 15th July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

I'm writing this letter in the midst of a very busy final week of term, reflecting on how proud I am to be the Head Teacher of Baysgarth School.

As another year draws to a close, it's time to reflect on our successes and look forward to the future. This year, for the second year running, we have been in the top 5% of schools nationally for the progress we make with our students; something which makes me incredibly proud. I have never worked with a staff body more committed to ensuring our students achieve the best possible outcomes, and our superb results five years running demonstrate that we are consistently the highest performing secondary school in the local area, outperforming over two-thirds of all Outstanding schools nationally.

This time of year is when we look at the handover of responsibilities. Our Year 11 students have been a real credit to the school and the way they have conducted themselves throughout the exam period has been exemplary. They have set an excellent example to the rest of our students and we wish them good luck with their exam results on Thursday 22nd August, and the rest of their lives. Ben Gath and Erin McWilliam did a superb job as Head Boy and Girl, and following a rigorous voting, selection and interview process we are proud to announce that next year's Head Boy and Head Girl will be Cameron Booth and Olivia Dalton-Goldspink. We look forward to them working with Prefects and the School Council to continue to bring about improvements in the school.

The end of the year is a time to say goodbye to colleagues and welcome new members of staff:

- Miss Hanley will be leaving our Modern Foreign Languages department to move to Germany. She has been a fantastic asset to the school, not only through her outstanding teaching but also through her running of the Student Council and organising school trips to France and Germany. We thank her for all her work here and wish her well for the next stage of her career.
- Mr Brice will be leaving the Science team, with his successor as Science Technician to be confirmed following interviews this week. We wish Mr Brice all the best for the future.
- Rosie Slade, our Receptionist, will be leaving us after 17 years' service to Baysgarth. We will all miss her and we wish her all the best in her new role in Hessle.
- Mrs Megson will be returning from maternity leave in September and will resume her position of SENCO and Teacher of English.
- We look forward to welcoming Miss Bilbe as a new teacher in the Science team, which is expanding due to our increasing student numbers year on year.
- We are also excited to introduce Miss Grimble, who will be delivering Dance lessons, a new subject in our curriculum.
- Mrs Burrows will join the Identity, Culture and Ethics (ICE) team, teaching Citizenship, ICE and some Humanities lessons.
- Miss Still will become our DT Technician from September.
- Mrs Humphries and Mrs Johnson will join our Personalised Learning team, as Learning Support Assistants.
- Miss Smith and Mrs Fearnely will also join our Admin team, as Clerical Assistants, based in the main reception and Student Support.

In addition to new starters, we have some staff who are changing posts within the school:

- Miss Smith has been promoted from Learning Manager to a new post as Child Protection Officer, taking a lead on all CP cases and concerns. Her current position as Learning Manager for Bardney House will be taken by Mr Brown.

- Mr Wilson-Walsh will be leaving the Humanities team as he has been promoted to Centre Manager of our new Alternative Provision facility, Headway.
- Mrs Cruickshank has been appointed as our Attendance Officer and will be the point of contact for all student attendance issues.
- We would also like to congratulate Mrs Jackson on successfully completing her Instructor course in Hair and Beauty.
- Following a review of our timetable and staffing structure, we have introduced Core Learning Leads for English, Maths and Science. Miss Melia, Miss Roberts and Miss Dolby will take a lead in their respective subject to support their Head of Faculty.
- We would also like to congratulate Mr Ladbury, Mr Wright, Mr Cuthbert and Miss Fretwell, who have all been appointed as Associate Assistant Head Teachers.

We would also like to mention that we have some celebrations taking place over the summer with the weddings of Mr Roberts, Assistant Head Teacher, Miss Fretwell, Head of Science and Miss Dolby, Teacher of Science. We wish them the best for their special day!

We have had another year of outstanding achievements for our students. As well as the academic success of our outcomes we have had sporting success, both for individuals and teams. We have had our best ever cross country results, with Year 7 girls winning their category and no year group finishing lower than fifth. In boy's football, all year groups qualified for the cup competition, with all year groups reaching the semifinals, whilst Year 10 and 11 both reached the finals. In girl's football, we have gone from strength to strength, with more girls playing than ever before and now winning matches on a regular basis. We have had strong performances with dodgeball, with Year 7 girls reaching the county finals and finishing third. Baysgarth also hosted and won the inaugural North Lincolnshire Street Golf Championship.



On the cultural front, we had a fantastic school production of Dracula Spectacular and students showcased their talents in a Musical Extravaganza performance. It's been fantastic to see students of all ages and abilities performing on stage, demonstrating how we are a truly inclusive school determined to develop the confidence, self-esteem and skills of all our students. We are looking forward to future productions including 'Daisy Pulls It Off!' in the autumn, so keep an eye out for details.

Outside of school, we have also run national and international trips to expand students' experiences. These have included Business Studies trips to Alton Towers, Meadowhall and Sheffield Hallam University; a

Geography trip to Osmington Bay; a visit to Wren to discuss road safety; a STEM trip to Jaguar; skiing in Italy; a languages visit to France; a week in Italy for Food students; visiting London to see a production of Blood Brothers on the west end; and a residential in London to develop student leadership skills, to name but a few. We look forward to a trip to New York and skiing in Austria next year! This summer we also have our Morocco expedition and we wish our staff and students a safe and successful visit, which I am sure will be an unforgettable experience for all involved.



We pride ourselves on the opportunities we give our students outside of normal school lessons to be successful and take on new challenges and experiences. One of the highlights of this year has been our Greenpower electric race car, which students have designed, built and now run in national competitions, including the Hull Street Race in April. Next year, Wren have volunteered to support this project with resources and expertise, so we are looking forward to the prospect of competing for honours with the best teams in the country #teambaysgarth.



Students also took part in this year's Slam Jam, the spoken word competition. Maia, Lee and Lincoln qualified for the final at LinPac in Lincoln. As the youngest students in the final, Maia, Lee and Lincoln all performed sensationally, and the judges were blown away with their original poems. Maia's poem was entitled 'Try' and addressed the issue of bullying. Lee and Lincoln chose the controversial topic of 'Pineapple on Pizza!' After competing against 17 other schools across Lincolnshire, Lee and Lincoln were awarded third place, a sensational achievement.



Thanks to our dedicated staff, opportunities like this happen on a regular basis. Even as recently as two weeks ago, our Year 9 students entered a TeenTech competition at the KCom stadium in Hull. They had to design a product and then pitch their design to all the other schools and the judges. Most of the schools in the Humber region were represented at the event and we walked away with the top prize, so congratulations to all involved for the quality of their presentation.



Furthermore, 1st July was the official opening of our 'Dig It' allotment, which was attended by the Mayor of Barton. This project started last year following a successful bid for money from Tesco and has attracted the support of many local residents and companies and has been the focus of our Horticulture students over the past months. A variety of produce is now growing in the allotment, including tomatoes, peas and cabbages. Updates can be seen on our website and social media.

It has also been a successful year for the School Council. They have represented the school at various events across the county, including The Great Debate, WE Day Social Action Club 2019 and participating in North Lincolnshire Youth Council meetings. Applications are currently open for students to join the School Council; details can be found on our website.

Baysgarth has developed a strong relationship with Wren over the last year. Their generous support has enabled us to publish and print our Expert Learner folders and have helped equip our new Media suite with 30 new Chromebooks. They are also supporting our Greenpower electric car and our community outdoor gym, which is available for free public use outside of school hours. Our entire Year 8 cohort visited Wren to learn about road safety around large lorries and over 30 staff visited the site to learn about career opportunities for our students. We are lucky to have such a successful national company based on our doorstep and we are looking forward to further developments next year as part of our community engagement programme. We are always looking for local partners to work with, so if you are part of a local business that wants to partner with the most successful school in the area, then please get in touch.



Despite our continued success over the last five years, we are still ambitious for further growth and development at Baysgarth. Our determination to be the best possible school for this community will never waver. Neither will our philosophy that our school should be fully inclusive and place itself right at the heart of the community.

The summer will see the completion of the works in our Grub Hub that we started last summer, adding the permanent flooring to the decoration and remodelling we began last year.

Work starts this week to build an outdoor gym as part of our Sports Village complex. This will contain 30 stations for students and members of the community to use free of charge. Chris Wright, our Director of Sport, has done an amazing job securing funding for this project and we can't wait for this to be open once we return in September.

Building work has started on remodelling our Skills Centre to become the basis for Headway, our Alternative Provision facility. This will open in the Autumn Term to provide support for students who struggle with mainstream education and for whom we want to provide pathways to be successful rather than being permanently excluded from education.

We are very proud that the school continues to develop and this is another sign of our success and ambition. Two years ago Baysgarth had only just over 700 students on roll, but in September we will have 850 students in our school. This shows the community has put its faith in us as the premier school in the local area. It's hard to argue against this with our track record of outstanding outcomes and our fantastic facilities that continue to grow and develop. However, we are still focused on improving and developing our students, ensuring they are ambitious for themselves and strive for the highest standards in everything they do.

As a result, next year we will be launching and developing our Character programme, focused on ensuring our students aim high in everything they do. The focal point of this programme will be the development of Expert Learner, with specific milestones that students have to reach. There will then be a graduation ceremony in Year 7 and 8 for students to progress into the next year of their learning. Students who do not meet the required standard will not move from Year 7 to 8 or from Year 8 to 9. They will drop back a year and will not be allowed to progress until they have demonstrated the attitude and effort we expect in school. We will be basing our school values on our 3Rs - Respect, Responsibility and Resilience. These values will form the basis of our rewards and sanctions systems and the culture and ethos of the school. These values and qualities are what we expect every member of our community - students, staff and parents - to display at all times. To launch the Character dimension to our school, we will be holding parents' meetings in the first weeks of the Autumn Term to give parents and carers more information on these new initiatives.

Through our Parents' Forums this year, we have been looking at what kind of school we want to build for our community. We spent some time looking at our curriculum and how we can shape this to ensure every one of our students finds pathways on which they can succeed. We then started to explore further to look at how we might amend our school day to provide opportunities for students to develop new skills, follow their areas of interest and expertise, and fully prepare them for the world with meaningful work experience and citizenship opportunities.

We will continue to develop these discussions during the Autumn Term. It is very exciting to be part of this conversation and planning for the future and our Parents' Forums have been well received. There will be further opportunities to discuss and debate this next year and we will be not only asking for your views but also looking for volunteers to help develop our Enrichment and work experience programmes. As a school we are also always on the lookout for volunteers to join our Governing Body to help plan the strategic development of the school - please let me know if you are interested in this opportunity.

Part of these discussions on the future of Baysgarth have gone right back to what we stand for and believe in as a school. Going forwards, we have decided that the following four areas are at the heart of everything we do:



Highest levels of Achievement

We are proud to have a track record of outstanding outcomes for what will be five years running in the summer. No off-rolling, no cheating, no bad years, just fantastic students working hard and believing in themselves, taught by great staff who genuinely care about them and put everything into making sure they are successful. This will always be central to everything we do at Baysgarth, as high achievement unlocks doors to our children's futures and provides them with the greatest possible choices for the rest of their lives. Mr North will be leading on this in school.

Highly Effective Preparation for the Future

We are proud of the quality of our teaching and learning, and as a staff we meet for two hours every week after school on a Monday to share best practice, learn new techniques and support each other to be creative and take risks in our classrooms that benefit our students' learning. It is often said that the greatest skill we can teach our students to prepare them for the world is the ability to learn new skills and this desire is at the heart of our work with our students. Miss Driscoll will be leading on this in school.

Highly Effective Family and Community Engagement

We are proud of the impact that Baysgarth has on our community. In the past year we have developed girls' football from nothing to be highly successful. Our students work in our primary schools every week, supporting younger students with numeracy and literacy. We have a skate park free to use for the community, soon to be joined by the outdoor gym. Next year we will be developing our reporting systems and splitting our Parents' Evenings, responding to our community who have commented that these areas could be even better. Mr Roberts will be leading on this in school.

Highest Levels of Wellbeing

Every parent knows that stress, anxiety and mental health are big factors in children's lives nowadays. We have already taken steps in Baysgarth by banning mobile phones and having no mirrors in the school - encouraging students to believe in who they are rather than obsessing with what they look like. We have trained students to be peer mentors, anti-bullying ambassadors and mental health champions. Getting the curriculum right and having a superb teaching staff supports students to be happy and successful, and our House system, backed up by Learning Managers and our school counsellor, ensures we have a strong family and community feel. Mr Barton will be leading on this in school.



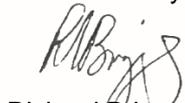
You can access and keep up to date with all our news and successes via our mobile app; it's free to download and easy to use. Simply search for 'Baysgarth School' in the Apple Store or Google Play.

Over the summer, our website will be updated with key information and dates for your diaries for the next academic year. To help you prepare for September, a dedicated page has been created with specific information, under the 'Parents' section: www.baysgarthschool.co.uk. We have also attached next year's term dates for you as a reminder and you can access the dates for 2020/21 from our website if you need to plan further ahead.

I'd like to say a big thank you all for the efforts you have made over the last year to support the school and your children - we can only achieve our successes with the support of our community.

We wish you all a restful summer and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 3rd September!

Yours faithfully



Richard Briggs
Head Teacher

