

Our Ref: SLT/FSC-0705WSL

Friday 7th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Last week was the first week we have had since March 2020 where the school was not disrupted by Covid-19. It was the first week we have had for 14 months where we weren't closed, partially closed or didn't have to send staff or students home to self-isolate. It seems like the hope we are all starting to feel about a return to normality, evidenced in society by the opening of shops and pubs, is finally applying to education as well. Seeing the pilot events where crowds have been allowed, from gigs in Liverpool to audiences at snooker and football, gives us a real sense that we are nearing the end of the most devastating phase of this pandemic in our own country.

Clearly this is not the same in other parts of the world, but thanks to the success of our vaccination programme and the diligence of you all with home testing, we all feel much safer. We await updated guidance from the government which we are hoping will mean we don't have to wear facemasks in classrooms from 17th May, and this will be another sign of that gradual return to normal.

However, we must not be complacent. Many of you will have seen the article on Look North last week featuring one of our Year 11 students, Leon Staves. Leon and his family have been suffering for months as his dad has spent the longest time of any Covid-19 patient in the Intensive Care Unit at Scunthorpe General Hospital. If you didn't catch the report you can view it on our [YouTube channel here](#). More than two months in the ICU and still very poorly shows us all how Covid-19 can devastate families and shows we have to continue to follow the guidelines in school and outside as well.

The government sends me daily reminders to make sure that staff and students are still following the twice-weekly LFD testing regime. It's really important we keep completing these tests as the best way to keep us all safe. As the Prime Minister has said: "I want to thank everybody for continuing to follow the guidance, and to thank parents and families for the incredible work you're doing to help test pupils through the Easter holidays and to encourage you to keep testing them twice a week as schools return."

This is particularly important as we head into the exam season for our Year 11 students - we need to keep Covid-19 out of the school to give them every opportunity to be here every day and do their best in all the assessments and exams that our teachers are setting, to ensure that we record their grades as accurately as possible. They are doing a brilliant job with their attitude and effort in school and we are incredibly proud of their positivity and resilience. Please help us out by continuing to test on a **Sunday and Wednesday before 6pm** and recording the results via our reporting form, which you can always find on the homepage of our website and by clicking [here](#).

Start of our building works

The first phase of our building works begins next week with the construction of a new car park at the front of school. The access road to the new car park goes through the location of the existing bike shed so the first job the contractors have to do is take down and relocate the bike shed.

The bike shed will be out of action from **Monday 10th May** for a number of weeks. We have set up a temporary bike and scooter park outside the main entrance of the school. This area is

sheltered, covered by CCTV and is just outside the main office. However, it is not as secure as a locked bike shed, so we need students to ensure they are locking their bikes and scooters if they leave them here. The school does not take responsibility for any bikes or scooters that are stolen from this space, so students and families need to take this responsibility on. If your child comes to school on a bike or scooter, please remind them that they must walk this on and off site for health and safety reasons.

Internet Watch Foundation campaign

In the last year, "[self-generated](#)" [child sexual abuse imagery](#) has increased by 77% and is a third of all child sexual abuse material identified and removed from the internet. These included images of girls aged 11 to 13 whose abuse had been recorded via a webcam in a domestic setting.

To help prevent the creation of this type of abusive imagery, a campaign has been launched by the [Internet Watch Foundation](#) (IWF) backed by the Home Office and Microsoft. It aims to help raise awareness of this type of criminality among parents and carers of young teens, empower and educate girls aged 11 to 13+ to spot the techniques used by sexual predators and give them the knowledge to 'Block, Report, Tell' someone they trust.

It is a national campaign running from Wednesday 21st April for six weeks. You can find out more on the [IWF website](#), as well as specific sites for [parents](#) and [young people](#).

School Uniform Supply Issues

We have been notified by our school uniform supplier, SWI, that there are potential delays in the delivery of school uniform due to the disruption caused by the pandemic. They say that 90% of orders are being fulfilled on time but our view is this might worsen in the peak summer ordering season. Our advice is to order any uniform that you need for September as early as possible to avoid stress and worry in August. SWI have written a letter to parents and this is attached with this letter - it contains telephone numbers and email addresses if you need to contact them.

You may also have noticed this week that Parliament has passed legislation on school uniforms and their cost. We are awaiting further information from the Secretary of State for Education and will let you know if this has any implications for our school. Both Baysgarth and the Local Authority provide uniform subsidies for our disadvantaged families that in recent years have added up to around £80 per child - we do this as we want every child to come to Baysgarth looking incredibly smart and feeling very proud of themselves.

Reopening of Changing Rooms and Uniform Changes

Government guidance no longer requires us to close off our changing rooms, so we are planning a return to using our full facilities after May half term. This will mean every student will come to school in full uniform every day from **Monday 7th June**. No student will need to come in their PE kit from this date. On days your child has PE, they should bring their PE kit to school with them and will use the changing facilities for this lesson.

We always move to our summer uniform in the final half term of the year. For our summer uniform we do not require students to wear their blazer. Shirts have to be tucked in, ties worn and sleeves rolled down at all times, but the blazer is no longer compulsory for this six-week period. We'll send our reminders of these changes and expectations in the weekly Tutor PowerPoint, which is shared with students during tutor time and which can be found on our [website](#).

School Day Consultation

We're planning to make some minor changes to the end of our school day from September 2021. We are launching a consultation on this on **Monday 10th May**, so look out for a letter from me with a link to a short questionnaire where you can give your opinion on the changes we are planning.

Summer School

We are planning to run a week-long summer school, which will be open to all of our new Year 7 students who will be joining us in September. This will run from the **26th to the 30th July** and will be a combination of lessons in our key subjects and a variety of other fun activities, on and off the school site. This is part of our commitment to ensuring our students are not disadvantaged by the impact of the pandemic. A separate letter giving more details of this offer will be sent to current Year 6 students in the next week or two.

Attendance

Attendance at school has been superb since we reopened in March and we're really pleased with how students and families have responded to our #allin campaign. We're continuing to support this campaign with spot prizes and rewards and these will continue for the rest of the summer term. Over the last ten days, I have seen a few holiday forms with families asking for time off in term time for a holiday, often one that has been postponed due to Covid-19. Whilst we sympathise with families who haven't been able to take a holiday for some time, these holidays will always be unauthorised and families will be subject to fines. It's so important that we have all of our students in school - they've missed too much time already to be able to justify more time away from learning.

Staffing Changes

We have been busy securing brilliant staff to support our students as the school continues to grow. We have strengthened our SEND team, appointing Emily Hill to the new post of Special Educational Needs Support Officer (SENSO), which sits directly underneath our SENCO, Emma Rice. We have also added two new Learning Support Assistants to this SEND team in Bethanie Wilkinson and Andzelika Durda. Bethanie and Andzelika will join the team in June.

We have also appointed four new trainee teachers to add to our capacity in key departments. It is a testament to the skills of our teaching staff and our leaders that we are now seen as one of the premier teacher training establishments in the area and a great place to start your teaching career. We will be welcoming Amy Wyatt into the Maths team, Ben Taylor into Science, Hannah Woodford into English and Hannah Pink into Humanities.

Next month we will be saying goodbye to Annette Clipson, one of our cleaning staff who has worked at Baysgarth for 23 years. We thank Annette for her many years of service to our students and our community. Although Annette will be very hard to replace, we are holding interviews for her successor next week.

We welcome four new staff to our Midday Supervisor team; Miss Martin, who started this week, and Mrs James, Miss Booth and Mrs Chen, who will join the school after the half term break.

You may have seen that we are currently advertising for a Teacher of PE and Dance. This is because Miss Grimble has decided not to return to the school after starting a family and because Mr O'Mara will also be leaving us at the end of this academic year. Mr O'Mara is one of our longest-serving and very best teachers. He has made a huge impact on this whole community during his 15 years of service, not just in PE but also in his role as Head of House and in his community role where he has taken girls' football from nothing to being a real strength of the area. Mr O'Mara and his family are moving to Kenya where he will take on a Director of Sport role. His larger than life presence will be hugely missed by us all and we wish him the best of luck in his new role.

Internally, we have made some changes to our leadership structure to create Associate Leader posts. These will help us create the capacity to grow the school successfully as we continue to expand and face the challenges and opportunities of a school that will soon have over 1,000 students. Congratulations to the following members of staff:

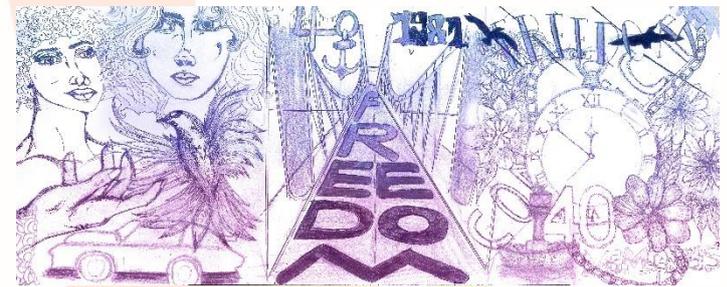
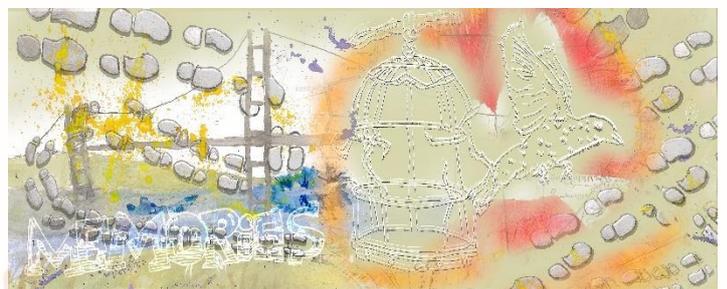
- Mr Cuthbert: Associate Assistant Head
- Miss Fretwell: Associate Assistant Head
- Mrs Burnham: Associate Leader for Strategic IT Development & Blended Learning

- Mrs Wright-Philips: Associate Leader for Professional Development
- Miss East: Associate Leader for Oracy
- Miss Bentley: Associate Leader for Tutoring
- Miss Dolby who will be temporarily promoted to Head of Science whilst Miss Fretwell takes maternity leave

Student Achievement

Congratulations to Aaron Burditt from our Headway Alternative Provision, who has completed the nationally-recognised IDEA award for his IT work. Aaron is the first student at Baysgarth to complete this qualification and we are all very proud of him.

Good luck to our KS3 students who have entered the Humber Bridge mural competition. This is to design a mural which will become a permanent installation on the Humber Bridge walkway, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the opening of the Bridge. They have produced some outstanding designs which we've reproduced below so that you can see the talents and creativity of our wonderful students.



Take care and have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully


Mr R. Briggs
Head Teacher