

Our Ref: SLT/FSC-3003WSL

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### End of Term Letter

As this term draws to a close, I want to thank you all for your support over what has been the strangest year of any of our lives. Throughout it all, our wonderful students have been incredibly Resilient and we've been unbelievably proud of the way they have conducted themselves, both in and out of school.

The events of the last three weeks show that we are not out of the woods yet and we all have to keep following the guidelines to reach that magical date of 21<sup>st</sup> June, when we should be free from restrictions. Since we returned, we have had more positive tests than we had in the Autumn term and faced more disruption than ever; something that both staff and students have found incredibly frustrating.

Thanks to your vigilance as parents and the regular testing that you have been completing on a Sunday and Wednesday, we have isolated these cases quickly and prevented a further outbreak. The challenge for us all is to keep this up over Easter and into the new term.

### Government Guidance as we head into the Easter break

The guidance is that we continue to test over Easter and into the new term. We advise that parents keep to the same routines of testing **every Wednesday and Sunday before 6pm**. We advise that the whole family completes the test - remember you can order test kits [online](#) or collect from Cemetary Way in Scunthorpe or the Humber Bridge car park in Hessle (both are open 1pm-8pm and you don't need an appointment). We ask you to report your results to the school via a brief form [here](#), and to NHS Test and Trace as well. Here's the extract from the government guidance:

### Testing over Easter

*Testing at home throughout the Easter holidays for schools and colleges  
Following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to school and college, it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term. Please pass on this message to all of your staff, students and parents:*

- *test twice a week at home from now on (all those who are able to)*
- *report results online as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping us to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country*
- *continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays*
- *test before returning to school or college for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back, to find and isolate any positive cases*
- *Families and households can also access home test kits for adults.*

We are awaiting confirmation from the Department for Education on whether facemasks will continue to be compulsory in classrooms after Easter. At the moment government guidance says facemasks should be worn 'until Easter'. We believe Boris Johnson is due to give a press

conference on this issue sometime over the Easter period. On Friday, the Secretary of State for Education issued a letter to all students, which [you can read here](#).

Nearly 40% of our students have had to self-isolate at some point over the last three weeks of term. There is financial help available for parents who have to stay off work to look after their child whilst they are self-isolating - here is what the guidance says:

### ***Test and Trace support payment for parents***

*Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria. The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is administered by district and unitary local authorities in England, ensures that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.*

*Parents and carers should apply to their local authority to receive a payment. Applications for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme are made via the local authority in which the parent or carer resides, not the local authority where the setting is situated, if these are different.*

*To be eligible applicants must meet all of the criteria that:*

- they are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate. This is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period*
- they are employed or self-employed*
- they cannot work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result*
- they meet all the other means-tested eligibility criteria for a Test and Trace Support Payment or locally determined criteria for a discretionary payment*

*That their child or young person:*

- is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC)) and normally attends an education or childcare setting*
- has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)*

To apply for this payment, you will need to send the Local Authority the self-isolating letter that the school has emailed to you. You can find more details on the [Local Authority website here](#).

Last week we were finally able to dismantle our in-house testing station and return our Main Hall to a venue for Drama lessons and assemblies. I'd like to thank the staff and volunteers who did an incredible job of carrying out nearly 5,000 tests in school this term, putting themselves at an increased risk of contracting Covid-19. The team were brilliant at reassuring the students and getting through the tests quickly, efficiently and accurately, minimising disruption to learning.

### **Vigilance**

We had a very concerning incident last week, whereby one of our Year 11 students was stopped on the way home from school by two men in a white van who asked them to get in the vehicle. We ask all of our parents and carers to remind their children of the need to be vigilant whilst walking to and from school and to stay safe. Preferably walk in groups, walk straight home, and report any suspicious activity to the Police immediately.

## Non-Uniform Day

Our termly non-uniform day will take place this **Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> April**. The Student Council has chosen [Young Minds](#) as the nominated charity for this fundraising event. Students are asked to bring in a voluntary £1 donation for the privilege of wearing non-uniform, and we recommend bringing in a little extra money as well should students wish to take part in some of the other fundraising events that will be taking place on Thursday - there are rumours of a wet sponge-throwing activity at break against the teachers!

## Attendance

Thanks to you all for your support for our attendance campaign based on the slogan #allin. Since we returned to school, our attendance rate has been 97%, which is the highest all year. We need to keep this momentum going in the summer term and we will continue to reward good attendance with House points, raffle prizes and much more!

## Year 8 Options

Students have now had access to the subject information via our [Options website](#) and have visited our Options Fair and benefited from our Options taster lessons. It's now time for them to make their final subject choices. The online Options form must be completed by **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April** - our advice is to get it done this week and then it won't slip your mind over the holidays. [You can access the Options form here.](#)

## Year 9 Reports

We've finally been able to send home our first set of Year 9 reports. These were due to go home in January but had to be paused due to the second lockdown. These reports comment on the employability skills our students developed during their Gateway curriculum in the Autumn term. It's the first time we've followed this reporting format, so if you have any feedback on the reports, we'd love to have it so we can keep improving.

## Year 7 Lunchtimes

Normally, we would transition Year 7 from having their own lunchtime to joining the other year groups at October half-term, once they've had time to settle into the school. This year we haven't been able to do this due to the lockdown restrictions and the need to bubble our year groups as much as possible. However, now that the field is open at lunchtimes and our canteens are back open at full capacity, we have been able to join Year 7 with the rest of the school at lunch. Their response to this has been fantastic and it has helped us feel more of a united community.

## Year 10 and 11 Exam Results

We now have all the results through from the external exams that our Year 10 and 11 students took in January, before the government cancelled all exams this year. Music achieved outstanding results and these were matched by Sport, where many of the students achieved superb results, even though they are in Year 10 and have missed out on so many face-to-face lessons over the last year. This shows the dedication of our students and the skill of our staff to prepare them brilliantly during the most difficult of circumstances. Well done to all!

## Year 11 Subject Videos

Our Year 11 students are showing exemplary attitude and effort in their last weeks of school. There is a clear plan for every subject which consists of lots of small-scale assessments in lessons followed by a fortnight of internal exams at the end of May. They will finish school at May half term and we are all hoping their Prom will go ahead as planned on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July**. Our

subject leaders have recorded videos to support students and parents by explaining exactly what is required in every subject. This will make it really clear what is expected of everybody and these videos are a 'must see' for every Year 11 student and parent. [You can find the videos here.](#)

## Parent Survey Results

Thank you to all the parents and carers who completed our parental survey earlier this term. The headlines are as follows:

- 98% of parents said their child was happy at Baysgarth
- 97% of parents said their child was safe in school
- 96% said the school makes sure its students are well behaved
- 98% said 'my child does well at this school'
- 99% agreed that 'there is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school'
- 95% would recommend Baysgarth to another parent

It's reassuring that the community is strongly behind what we are doing and have been trying to do to support our families during the last year. Positive comments from parents come into school regularly and these make a real difference to us, such as this one to a member of our Maths team:

*'I just wanted to drop you a note to say how nice we both thought it was that you took the time to call us and Oliver yesterday following the live lesson. He's been a bit down this week, having to be off again, but your call really lifted his spirits and he was so happy to get the recognition. I think it's these little things that you're all doing that just show the kids that they're not forgotten about and that you're all there to support and encourage them. Thank you for the honesty and transparency that the school has shown throughout this last year, and of course your ongoing support.'*

This support has also come from the external agencies we work with to support our students. Last week we had this message from one of these agencies:

*'It's great that you're all so supportive at Baysgarth. I really do feel you're all doing a grand job with your young people. As professionals we maybe don't say that enough to each other.'*

## Successful Funding Bids

Despite the difficult circumstances of the last year, our staff have still been trying to obtain external funding to support our students and our wider community.

Thanks to Chris Wright, our Director of Sport, we have been successful in obtaining £1,000 funding from Tesco to support our external play spaces, open to our community after school and at weekends.

And well done to the Headway AP team, who have secured £1,000 of funding from Kellogg's to run our Headway Breakfast Club, ensuring that our most vulnerable students have a healthy and nutritious start to the day to put them in the right frame of mind for learning.

## Planned Building Works

Those of you who have been past the school in the last few weeks will have noticed that a number of trees have been removed from the front of school. This is in preparation for the new car park that will mark the first phase of the new build that will take place over the summer and autumn. The new teaching block will be built on the current car park so this cannot start until a replacement car park has been built. Work will start on this in May and we're really pleased that, despite lockdown, everything is on track for the new build.

## Student Success

We were very proud of our Year 11 students who represented the United Kingdom at the 'Your Europe, Your Say' conference last week. Megan Beevers, Samantha Bray, Joanna Pottinger and Joshua Allen had to negotiate and work with students from 27 other countries to come up with proposals that would enable Europe to meet the stipulations of the Paris Climate Agreement. These proposals were then put to senior members of the European Parliament. The students did a brilliant job and you can hear their Radio Humberside interview [here](#) and watch their Look North appearance [here](#).



Congratulations also to Year 11 student, Faith Cressey. She has auditioned for some of the top Performing Arts colleges in the country and has been staying behind most nights to work on her audition tapes. Up to now, three out of the five colleges have offered her a place. This is such an amazing achievement as these colleges are very competitive - well done Faith!



As we move further into Spring our students have been working hard on the school allotment and are looking forward to reaping the fruits of their labour. The students hope to be able to sell the produce they are growing to staff and students in school at break and lunchtime. A huge thank you to Mickey Pettit who has constructed an amazing vegetable cart and donated it to the school for the students to use to display their produce.

## Chromebook Leasing

We have worked with PrimaryTech, our I.T. provider, to find a solution that means that the Chromebooks are able to be used for a wider variety of purposes outside of school and I'm pleased to say we are now rolling out a solution known as 'off hours', which will facilitate this. Between the hours of 3pm and 8am during the week, and all day at a weekend, Chromebooks procured through the leasing scheme will be available to use without restrictions and users will be able to sign into personal accounts. Please allow a couple of minutes for this transition to take effect.

We do have one spare brand-new Chromebook to lease as a result of one child who had signed up to the scheme moving out of the area and leaving Baysgarth. The Chromebook is available on a three-year lease at £14.50 per month or £5 per month for a disadvantaged student. The device will be allocated on a first come, first served basis; if you are interested, please email [craig.bradley@baysgarthschool.co.uk](mailto:craig.bradley@baysgarthschool.co.uk).

## Lettings and the Skate Park

We are hopeful that the Skate Park will reopen to the community on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April**. From yesterday, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March, the external sports facilities are once again open for lettings for organised groups with a supervisor and as soon as the guidance allows, we will open our inside spaces for lettings as well. Head to our [website](#) to book any of these spaces or contact [christopher.wright@baysgarthschool.co.uk](mailto:christopher.wright@baysgarthschool.co.uk) if you have any questions about hiring our facilities.

## Ski Trip 2022

We have 31 places available for the 2022 ski trip that we had to defer from this year. The trip is available to all students in Year 7-10. A separate letter giving out more details will be sent to parents later this week and applications need to be returned by **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April** to be considered for this fantastic trip.

## Support for Children and Families over Easter

As the Easter break approaches, we would like to highlight the ongoing support services that will be available over the holidays. Kooth, an online mental wellbeing community, will continue to provide free, safe and anonymous support to children and young people aged from 11 to 25 years throughout the holidays. The 24/7 provision will be available after the school closes and can be accessed from any device connected to the internet. Please visit the [Kooth website](#) for more information.

Shout 85258 are also offering round the clock free, for all ages, text support for anyone struggling to cope and who may be experiencing depression, anxiety, abuse, panic attacks, suicidal thoughts, self-harm, relationship problems and bullying. [Find out more here.](#)

## FSM

As part of the government's Holiday Activities and Food Programme, North Lincolnshire Council have launched their 'Fuelled' campaign, which will provide students eligible for Free School Meals an activity bag for over the Easter holidays. Activity bags contain various items and recipe cards for students to use throughout the holidays and beyond, along with food vouchers to cover the duration of the break. Activity bags can be collected between **8am and 3.30pm before Thursday**. If you are self-isolating or if you cannot collect your child's activity bag, please contact the school and we will look at alternative options.

## Staffing Update

The end of term often signifies a time when staff move on from schools and this year is no different. I want to thank the following staff for their dedication to our students and this community in their roles:

- Julie Shearer, who is leaving her post as Midday Supervisor
- Rosie Waller, who is leaving the post of Midday Supervisor that she has held since 2007
- Beth Arandle will be leaving her post as our Dance Teacher covering maternity leave to take up a permanent post
- Yvonne Oglesby is leaving her post as Learning Support Assistant on 23<sup>rd</sup> April
- Bernie Morgan, who is leaving her post as Teacher of Food on 30<sup>th</sup> April after six successful years at Baysgarth
- Gemma Megson is leaving her post as SENCO after seven years of brilliant service to our students
- Marie Roberts is retiring from the position of English Teacher after a successful career spanning nearly six years serving the students of this area

Adverts for Midday Supervisors and Learning Support Assistants will be published this, so if you, or someone you know, would like to join our successful and happy team, please check out our [website](#) for details of how to apply.

It's certainly been the most testing term of the most testing year that any of us have experienced in education. However, I am very proud of our students and our staff for their fortitude and resilience and as we look forward to the Easter break and the easing of lockdown measures, there is finally a sense of hope of a return to normality that we all crave. I hope you all manage to have a restful Easter and we look forward to welcoming all of our students back to school on **Monday 19th April**.

Yours faithfully

  
Richard Briggs  
Head Teacher