



11 July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Term dates

This summer term ends on Friday 21 July 2023 at the usual time of 3.00pm. The Yellow Bus service will operate as usual.

The following list details the term dates and other school closure dates for the next academic year:

- **Tuesday 5 September 2023** - with Year 7 starting at 8.45am; Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 starting at 1.00pm. Year 12 start at 10.15 and Year 13 at 1.50pm. The bus service will operate as usual
- **Wednesday 6 September 2023** - with lessons as usual with school starting at 8.25am with registration at 8.30am. The bus service will operate as usual
- **Thursday 21 September 2023** – School will close at 13.55pm to allow pupils and students to go home and return to support Open Evening; school bus service will operate as usual
- **Friday 22 September 2023** – School will be closed for Training Day
- **Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October 2023** – Half Term break
- **Friday 24 November 2023**– School will be closed for Training Day
- **Monday 18 December 2023 to Tuesday 2 January 2024** – Christmas Break
- **Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February 2024** – Half Term break
- **Monday 25 March to Friday 5 April 2024** – Easter Break
- **Monday 6 May 2024**– Bank Holiday
- **Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May 2024** – Half Term break
- **Friday 19 July 2024** – End of academic year

School Day – This is a reminder of the letter sent on 23 February 2023 regarding the change of times of the school day from September 2023; as previously stated - this is a requirement by the Department for Education for all schools and academies to provide a school week of a minimum of thirty-two-and-a-half-hours. The following extract is from a paper published by the DfE:

By September 2023 at the latest, all state-funded, mainstream schools will be expected to provide a compulsory school week of at least 32.5 hours

[Minimum expectation on length of the school week: information note \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

To comply with this directive, we will change the start of the school day for pupils and students to 8.30am each day:

Start of the day for pupils	08:25	To be on the school site
Registration	08:30 – 08:50	20
Period 1	08:50 – 09:55	65
Period 2	09:55 – 11:00	65
Break 2a and 2b **	11:00 – 11:20	20
Period 3	11:20 – 12:25	65
Period 4	12:25 – 13:30	65
Lunch 4a and 4b **	13:30 – 14:00	30
Period 5	14:00 – 15:00	60

****Break time and lunch time will remain as two split breaks and two split lunch times**

There will continue to be a two break and two lunch system; although this reduces some opportunities for extra-curricular study, it does provide focused social time for year groups

Registration – punctuality and attendance remain a priority for the school as we continue to work to meet the national average of 96% attendance. The most recent statistical data (2018/19) from the Department for Education (DfE) states “Among pupils with no missed sessions over Key Stage 4, 83.7% of pupils attained grades 9 to 4 in English and maths compared to 35.6% of pupils who were persistently absent”.

Pastoral Teams

As part of our school improvement process and due to changes in personnel the following arrangements have been put in place with immediate effect and are the Year Teams in readiness for September 2023:

Year Leader Year 7 (Current Year 6)	Mr Staniland
Assistant Year Leader Year 7 (Current Year 6)	Mrs O'Hara
Year Leader Year 8 (Current Year 7)	Miss Bird
Assistant Year Leader Year 8 (Current Year 7)	Mrs Addison
Year Leader Year 9 (Current Year 8)	Miss Holmes
Assistant Year Leader Year 9 (Current Year 8)	Mr Martin
Year Leader Year 10 (Current Year 9)	Mr Atkinson
Assistant Year Leader Year 10 (Current Year 9)	Mrs Adams
Year Leader Year 11 (Current Year 10)	Mr Varley
Assistant Year Leader Year 11 (Current Year 10)	Ms Scott
Senior Assistant Year Leader	Miss O'Neill (this role is to increase capacity and provide pastoral support at Key Stage 4)

The locations of Year Groups from September 2023 will be:

Year 7 (Current Year 6)	English Faculty
Year 8 (Current Year 7)	Maths Faculty
Year 9 (Current Year 8)	Humanities Faculty
Year 10 (Current Year 9)	MFL and Technology Faculties
Year 11 (Current Year 10)	Science Faculty

School uniform

In response to the directive from the Department for Education (DfE) we previously changed our school uniform to reduce the number of items that have the school logo or any form of school branding – this was also to reduce cost.

UNIFORM

Navy polo shirt with school badge

Navy sweatshirt with school badge

Plain black tailored trousers **Unacceptable styles although not limited to:** Super skinny, hipster, riveted denim, canvas, jeans-style, cropped, ankle grazers, leggings, jeggings, treggings

or/ plain black skirt (non lycra or other stretchy fabric) worn with black opaque tights. The skirt should be no more than 7.5cm (3") above the knee

Plain dark socks that cover the ankle

Plain black shoes with black soles

Suitable winter outdoor coat

Black hijab with year group colour trim (worn for religious reasons)

Please do not assume that if a retailer describes its range as 'school wear' that it matches our expectations. For example, many trousers with stretch material will not have a tailored appearance so may not meet our expectations. If there is any doubt please see our website or contact the Year Team before purchasing uniform.

Our expectations are clear, pupils who do not meet our uniform and appearance standards will be removed from the school community until standards are met.

PE KIT

White polo shirt

Sky/navy shorts and/or TSS black sport leggings or TSS tracksuit bottoms

Navy 1/4 zip training top with school badge.

Black or white sports socks (separate to socks worn for school uniform)

Navy football socks (recommended for football and rugby)

Trainers (no fashion/canvas pumps or 'Converse' styles)

Football boots (recommended for football and rugby)

Optional: Base layers (navy or black) for wearing **UNDER** PE kit during the winter months.

We advise pupils wear shin pads and gum shields during football, hockey and rugby lessons. We insist that pupils with long hair use a hair tie. We will provide an elastic band if required.

You are expected to bring your full PE kit to every lesson. If you don't have it, please:

- Tell your teacher when you arrive for the lesson
- Borrow a school PE kit.

If you need to be excused from a PE lesson due to illness or injury, you must:

- Ensure your parents/carers fill in and sign a **PE Absence Note** at the back of the planner
- Bring your PE kit and get changed for the lesson

No deodorant sprays or perfumes/aftershaves allowed. Roll-on deodorant only.

School improvement and self-review

Once again it has been a very busy term and as reported to Full Board of Governors and through Governors' Committees, we continue to have a strong focus on our school improvement agenda and the two key areas for improvement:

■ Leaders have not ensured that the curriculum for personal development over time has been clearly planned, sequenced, or structured to the same standard as the rest of the curriculum. This includes personal, social and health education and religious education. Consequently, pupils have gaps in their understanding. Leaders must act quickly to address any issues that arise from the training and development which has already started.

■ In some subjects, leaders have not ensured that planning has identified specific strategies to support SEND pupils and enable them to achieve ambitious targets. As a result, teachers do not always know how to support pupils with SEND effectively. Leaders need to work with the SEND coordinator to identify the most appropriate strategies and support for these pupils

In response to the Ofsted Areas for Improvement:

Personal Development:

We have created new posts and appointed a Leader of Personal Development, a Personal Development Enhancement Leader and Personal Development (PD) Advocates to take responsibility for each of the five strands: Respectful Relationships, Staying Safe, Staying Healthy, Careers and Finance and, Good Citizens.

The Lifetracks lesson that was previously Monday Period 1 has changed to a Personal Development Lesson Period 3 on Wednesday. The curriculum for this subject has been re-written with a focus on British Values and the five key strands of Personal Development

In addition, we have delivered PD specific training through whole school Training Days and Wednesday T&L sessions. Our PD Leader attends the weekly Faculty Leaders Briefing. There has been Lesson Visits into PD Lessons and a PD specific work scrutiny.

We achieved the National SMSC Gold Award which we are immensely proud to have achieved – previously I have published the report in full – below are some extracts:

In March 2022 OFSTED reported concerns about the then 'Lifetracks' (PSHE) lessons, and it is much to your credit that the school has done so much work to redress this, and promote SMSC and Personal Development within, and throughout, the curriculum.

Inevitably, some aspects of provision have been affected by the pandemic, but it is testimony to the strong sense of moral purpose that is shared throughout the school, and the expectations and aspirations that you have for pupils and staff, that any previous disruption, such as restrictions to extracurricular activities, trips and visits are already being proactively addressed.

Significant investment in the role of a Personal Development lead has given PD parity of esteem with other curriculum leaders. Ms Moon has already made some significant improvements in provision which will be of benefit to staff and students. She is clearly revelling in the role and will, no doubt, continue to make an increasingly strong contribution to the curriculum and opportunities for pupils.

- Updating the RSHE curriculum to ensure compliance with the statutory expectations, but also locating this within a wider programme of 'Personal Development' (PSHE) has been recognised and appreciated by pupils and parents alike. Adaptations to the curriculum are supported by close working relationships with the pastoral teams, and linking this to assemblies and a thoughtful, and developing programme of external visitors is already paying dividends. The newly instigated 'PD Newsletters' are a real strength.
- The recent and planned staff development sessions around neurodiversity, challenging discriminatory language with kindness and empathy, diversity role models, especially around the needs of LGBTQ+ people and mental health are to be applauded. This will, no doubt, support all members of the school community.
- You are also actively seeking leadership responsibility opportunities for pupils which is to be highly commended. The Diversity Council is already a real strength and plans to make this increasingly student lead sounds really exciting.

In addition, we have had careers events, summer census, Year 13 Leavers' lunch, external review by B11 of the Arts, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions for the Bronze Award, Year 8 Outdoor Education and STEM week, Year 12 Geography residential, Governor QA, Sixth Form Prom, Year 11 Leavers' lunch, Rewards Trips to Flamingo Land and Blackpool, Sixth Form Taster Days for Year 11, Diversity Day, Year 11 Prom, Masterclasses, recruitment and of course, the summer exam series for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5.

SEND

We have appointed a new SENDCo, Assistant SENDCo and SEND Advocates (one in each Faculty). In addition, we have delivered SEND specific training through whole school Training Days and Wednesday T&L sessions. SENDCo and Assistant SENDCo attend the weekly Faculty Leaders Briefing and have a standing agenda item; in addition, they publish a weekly SEND Bulletin to all members of staff highlighting SEND T&L tips, SEND information, and SEND Faculty Focus and sharing practice. There has been SEND specific work scrutiny and lesson visits linked to Appraisal.

In planning for September 2023, we have created a Nurture provision based on the national nurture model to support pupils to accelerate their learning.

Further School Improvement

The focus for School Improvement in 2023-2024 will be on maintaining current standards as a strong platform for Aspiration and Ambition:

- New responsibility posts of House Aspiration Leaders are to be created from across all areas of the school to link with our recent implementation of Class Charts to identify and reward our children for personal achievement. Personal achievements will also contribute to school community programmes and rewards

- Aspiration Learning Programme linked to a My Future programme to provide opportunities and support our children and young people with a focus on attaining high and aiming high with future employment
- Faculty and Subject Leaders are reviewing Schemes of Learning to ensure there is an emphasis on Aspiration within their curriculum and linking this to opportunities for experience and personal development in what is known as Cultural Capital
- Partnership work with the Local Authority on a pilot scheme to develop programmes of work for pupils with anxiety which can often lead to what is categorised as Emotionally Based School Avoidance or Refusal (EBSA)

Summer works

Over the summer break the following work is planned as part of the Building Maintenance Contract:

- to refurbish both the girls' and boys' toilet blocks located by Café Beans
- new flooring in classrooms and corridor spaces
- decorating in corridors and Faculty corridors
- replacement of dining furniture in Café Cosmopolitan

In addition to the contractual programme:

- establishment of the Mary Salt Centre as the Nurture room for learning to be in the MFL Faculty area
- establishment of the Helen Salt Centre, located within the Progress Mentor provision to support the EBSA programme
- a significant upgrade to the wireless infrastructure as part of the Department for Education's Connect the Classroom programme

News and Events – March 2023 to July 2023

Below is a summary of news and events.

Champion Schools Competition for Rugby - Great overall performance from our Year 7 Rugby team. They were chosen to represent Bradford in a District Rugby tournament that involved teams from Hull, Castleford, Leeds, Halifax, Barnsley, and Huddersfield. They did great to finish 3rd! Excellent Rugby was played, and they showed great team spirit.

First Lego League - A team of 8 of our Year 10 boys took part in the "First Lego League" in York, a competition testing the teams' engineering, programming, planning, presenting and problem-solving skills. For the competition, the team were required to:

- build and program a Lego robot capable of running a series of tasks independently
- describe and explain their design and building process for their robot
- present an innovative solution that uses renewable energy.

The team had been preparing for the competition every week by attending our Lego robotics club, where they have been able to plan, build and test their robot. The boys had a tough schedule for the first three rounds, with not much practice time in between each round, but were able to improve on their score throughout the day. The boys unfortunately did not manage to get passed the first round of the knockout stages, but with the points they gathered, they managed to come a respectable fifth place. The boys can be proud of their efforts and did manage to bring back the "York University Future Engineers Award Trophy" for demonstrating their great engineering skills.

Riley Theatre performance at Northern School of Contemporary Dance - Thirteen of our KS4 Dance pupils performed at a Community Platform to a sold-out Riley Theatre at Northern School of Contemporary Dance Leeds. The pupils spent a full day taking part in practical dance workshops, working with a professional technical team before performing a spectacular ensemble evening

performance. There were auditable gasps from the audience due to our pupils sheer technical ability. A huge well done to all the dancers involved!

F1 in Schools STEM competition - A group of our Year 10 and 11 pupils have been working hard creating their entries to the F1 in Schools STEM competition – the competition involved a rigorous judging of the team's work. Both of our teams have worked hard to produce a model of an F1 car – which was raced against other teams at the regional final. They also produced professional standard engineering portfolios and had to present to a team of judges. Both teams worked hard and achieved great results – they won awards for their verbal presentation and for their engineering portfolio.

Darlington Hippodrome - Year 10 drama students took a trip to Darlington Hippodrome this week to see John Godber's play "Teechers: Leavers '22!" A requirement of the GCSE course to see live theatre, students were treated to an energetic comedy about education for the 'haves' and 'have nots' of society. "It was great, so funny, I really enjoyed it!" commented a student as they left the theatre. Another theatre trip has already been requested by the students!

Aiming High - Kaya, Year 11, has always had an interest in planes and flying and has been receiving flying lessons since she was in Year 7. She takes lessons every month in Sherburn in Elmet and has been clocking up hours accompanied by her instructor in her flight log, flying a Piper PA28 since she turned 14. There is a lot to learn when flying a plane and alongside studying for her GCSEs, Kaya has been recently learning Air Law so that she could take the exam in time to make her first solo flight on her 16th birthday this April. Kaya sat this exam earlier in the month and got 100% – an outstanding achievement, of which she is proud.

Kaya hopes to sit the remaining 8 exams alongside her Year 12 studies next year and is aiming to get her pilot's licence when she is 17. She intends to continue in the sixth form and study Physics, Maths and Chemistry with the longer-term goal of becoming a commercial pilot.

We are in the final! - Well done to the Year 7 Football team who have made it through to the Bradford Schools Final. They did so well beating Buttershaw 2-0 and showed brilliant character and togetherness to achieve the feat. They play Immanuel on 23rd May 2023 in the final.

Cricket Success - Alyssa, Year 8, was selected for the Yorkshire U13 girls cricket squad. She is 1 of 29 girls in the whole of Yorkshire.

Team play at Odsal Stadium - Twelve, Year 7 girls went to Bradford Bulls to compete in the Rugby League Bradford Final at Odsal Stadium. It was a full-contact game and the girl's showed resilience and no fear – when it came to tackling and throwing themselves over the try line. After an exhausting game for the girls, they came away with a 28-22 win against SBSJ! Our next step is going to Warrington in June to represent Bradford in the Nationals where they will play teams from all over the country.

We are the champions! - The Year 7 football team came out victorious against Immanuel in the Bradford Schools Final. After conceding first in the first five minutes Year 7's showed great character and resilience to turn it around and win the game 3-1. The goal scorers were Garner and Theo. Congratulations Year 7!

Outdoor Ed Week - Year 8 pupils enjoyed a week of Outdoor Education activities in the sunshine. They took part in mountain biking, kayaking, climbing and archery where they were able to develop new skills in a different environment. The instructors who led the sessions were very complimentary about how everyone worked together as part of a team and were especially impressed with how the pupils encouraged each other to keep going when they found something difficult.

Warrington Rugby Festival - On Tuesday 20 June, our Year 7 girls' rugby team went to Warrington for the Inspired by 9's National's Festival after winning the Bradford District competition last month. No overall win this time but they won a few of their games and we had some very close draws! All the girls played exceptionally well and threw themselves into every tackle! They should be so proud of themselves – the ambition and drive they show towards the game is inspiring. The girls are so excited to play again next year and have already started planning ways to improve their skills. The excitement continues, on Friday night the team will be heading to Headingley Stadium to watch Leeds Rhinos v Huddersfield Giants.

Rhinos v Huddersfield - Thirteen of our Year 7 girls went to watch Leeds Rhinos v Huddersfield Giants at Headingley Stadium. They were fortunate enough to be on the pitch to hold the team's flags as the players entered through the tunnel! The atmosphere was amazing and the girls' loved it.

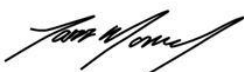
Former pupil, Ella Curtis - Ella took up cycling in her teens and has been unstoppable ever since. She recently added to her amazing haul of medals with a Gold in the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin.

Summer series examinations

In addition to all of this, we have had the summer series of examinations for Year 11 and Year 13 plus other assessments in other year groups. It can never be underestimated, the level of challenge to sit examinations, especially as the impact of the pandemic can be still felt. Our children and young people were as well-prepared as they could be with revision, learning support programmes and masterclasses – their level of focus as they went into the exams was impressive. We look forward to sharing in their attainment and achievement on Results Days - 17 August 2023 for KS5 results between 8.30am and 11am and 24 August 2023 for KS4 results between 10am and 12pm. Both the Year 11 and Year 13 Prom nights were a pleasure to attend and a memorable occasion. I wish all our Year 11 and Year 13 every success in their future and thank them for their resilience and commitment to achieving their best.

I wish to end by thanking all parents and carers for your continued support through the challenges over the last year which have been impacted by events of previous years – no doubt there will be further challenges ahead and I look forward to us continuing to work together

Yours sincerely



Ian Morrel

Headteacher