

Headteacher's update



Welcome Back!

I'm thrilled to be welcoming back all of our pupils to school this week and can't wait to hear about all the adventures they've been having over the Easter break.

During the Easter break, I've thoroughly enjoyed spending some precious family time with my two 6 year old daughters. It wasn't quite the holiday I had planned as Covid hit home early on, but perhaps that was a blessing in disguise: We've built dens, created imaginary paddle boards out of old cardboard and sticks, played at being potters spinning pots out of nothing but Plasticine and water (Do not try this *in* the home!) and experimented with building bug homes. It's been fascinating to watch them working out how to get from point A to B with their creations and, in particular, watching how initial frustration turns into pride when they realise their goals.

As I watched, I couldn't help thinking of our own pupils at Filey School; especially our year 11s at the current time as they continue to revise for their GCSEs. It led me onto thinking about the importance of encouraging resilience or 'stickability' in our learners both in, and out, of school and how we might work together to help our children fulfil their potential. After all, learning most certainly doesn't 'stop' the moment they leave the school site each evening. I'd like to explore how we might nurture more opportunities to work with parents, carers and the local community more extensively. Please do get in touch with your ideas too, or if you feel you'd like to be involved- I'm always keen to hear from you.

Parents and carers of year 11 pupils:

Please join us for our
Exam Preparation
Information Evening on
Thursday 28th April
6pm – 7pm

Refreshments provided.

With this in mind, I'm delighted to invite parents and carers to our year 11 examination preparation evening on **Thursday 28th at 6pm until 7pm**. The aim of this session is to provide practical tips for helping your child with their revision, but also to provide an insight into understanding some of the pressures they face during this key time and how to support them through it. Refreshments will be provided and I look forward to seeing as many of you there as can make it.

"Don't let what you can't do today interfere with what you can do tomorrow." John Wooden.

"I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have." Thomas Jefferson

As we return to school under the Government's 'Living with Covid 19' guidance', I'd like to share with you some truly positive changes we have now been able to make to the structure of the school day.

From Monday, we will be returning to a shared break and lunchtime for both Key stage 3 and Key stage 4 pupils. This change means we are able to have a much greater staffing presence during social times, run a wider number of lunch time revision and catch up sessions for our year 11s in the lead up to their exams, begin to broaden the enrichment activities on offer for pupils at lunchtimes and allow our children an extended lunch break for activities, study and socialising.

Furthermore, we are moving 'form time' from the afternoon to the morning to enable us to once again have face to face year assemblies and publically celebrate the achievements of our young people with them as they gain rewards throughout the school year. I firmly believe the movement of 'form time' from the afternoon to the morning is also extremely important in nurturing the wellbeing of our pupils. A form tutor builds a relationship with their tutees over time and can often spot when a young person may need an extra bit of support. Having 'form time' in the morning gives a tutor the opportunity to step in and help far earlier.

In addition to the benefits above, the greater staff availability means we are more able to cover staff absences in the event of high levels. Clearly, keeping all pupils in school as much as possible is everyone's goal and I hope these changes will also help us to significantly reduce the need for year group closures moving forward.



The structure of our school day is changing.

Session	Time
Period 1	08:40 - 09:40
Form Time	09:40 - 10:00
Break	10:00 - 10:20
Period 2	10:20 - 11:20
Period 3	11:20 - 12:20
Lunch	12:20 - 13:10
Period 4	13:10 - 14:10
Period 5	14:10 - 15:10

NB: Please be assured that the timings and orders of lessons and social times are changing. There are to be no changes to the beginning and end of the school day at this time.

Easter Adventurers:

Whilst many of our pupils have been busy out of school over the last two weeks, many have joined my wonderful colleagues who gave up their own time to host two wonderful events this Easter.

Firstly, I'd like to congratulate our Duke of Edinburgh Award participants for their incredibly successful camping expedition over the Easter break. Due to Covid, many expeditions have had to be cancelled across the UK last year and this, but our resilient troop chose not to be defeated and instead set up camp on our very own school field! To gain their accreditation pupils had a number of independent tasks to complete, including employing their skills to navigate two long walks both to the camp site and from the camp site to a designated reference point. Observing from a socially safe distance, I was lucky enough to watch them return to site. The look of achievement and pride they had on their somewhat weary faces was wonderful. . We really are very proud of their achievements – well done to every one of you!



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Our year 11 pupils were also making us proud this holiday; they joined our Science, Maths and English teachers to revise for their upcoming GCSEs. Mr Anderson was delighted by the work ethic shown by these pupils during the revision day; so much so that he ordered pizzas for lunch which I believe was a welcome treat after such diligent work. Well done to all who joined us for revision on Friday; your positive attitude to your studies will make a huge difference to your final grades.

I'd like to close by wishing all our families a healthy and happy half term and to say I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Ms Britton.