



Eskdale School

Date: 18th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family are safe and well.

Thank you for your support during the first half term of 2022, it has been a really positive six weeks of learning and we are already looking forward to the rest of the year! But first, a well-deserved half term break for staff and students, and I hope that families manage some quality time together before we return.

Thank you for all your support through this period; it is truly appreciated, and this partnership has been crucial in enabling schooling to continue as close to normal as possible. This letter is to convey some key messages for the months ahead at Eskdale School.

COVID -19

When we return after the half term break, we will no longer request that face coverings be worn in classrooms and communal areas of the school. Should anyone wish to continue to wear a face covering either in communal areas and/or classrooms then this will be permitted and encouraged. If your child does want to continue to use a face covering, then please remember to send one with them as they will no longer be routinely available from school.

Examinations 2022

The Government has confirmed that examinations will go ahead for all Year 11 this year. Our Year 11 students are currently taking their mock exams and we will let you know the outcome of these examinations in March. Analysis of the results is crucial for us in determining what areas to focus on in lessons and our interventions in the remaining time between now and the final exams in the summer. You may be aware that examination boards have made some amendments to their exams for this summer in light of Covid. Schools have only this week been informed of these amendments, and they vary from subject to subject. They will be discussed with students and more information will follow. However, all subjects will still have full exams and it remains as important as ever to revise well and work hard towards them. Should the pandemic have an increased impact in the coming months, the Government does have a contingency plan to revert to TAGs (Teacher Assessed Grades). It is questionable that this will be necessary, but if this is the case then teachers will use mock exams and other assessments to guide what grades to award, which also raises the importance of maintaining a revision programme in the next few months.

Year 11 Mock examination results

The Year 11 mock results will be issued to students on Tuesday 29th March. We are intending to organise several events/information for students and parents in response to the outcomes of the results. More detail will follow after half term.

Year 10 Mock examination results

Year 10 mock results (Child Development and Hospitality and Catering) will be issued to students on Tuesday 29th March.

Chromebooks/Laptops

If you have any chromebooks/laptops issued from school please could you return them as soon as possible as urgent updates are required.

Student Rewards

After half-term weekly reward nominations will begin again. Winners will be announced on our school Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/EskdaleSchoolWhitby/>

Punctuality and attendance

One of the biggest drives we will make after the half term is on punctuality and attendance. This is an area upon which we have worked so hard with big success over the last few years, and we need to make sure we get back to pre-Covid levels. One thing that is clear is that attendance is fundamental to the success of our students, and we make no apologies for driving this every single day. Students should be on the tennis courts by 8.55am. Please reinforce this message at home.

Year 9 Options Evening

Parents and Carers of Year 9 students are invited to Options Evening on Tuesday 1st March. The evening will run from 4.00-6.00pm. Department staff will be available in the hall to answer questions and to provide more about the subject in Years 10 and 11. Senior staff will be available to answer questions about the Option process. We are looking forward to seeing Year 9 students and their parents/carers on this evening.

Uniform

As the half term draws to a close, we are keen to maintain the high standards and expectations for uniform that we saw in September when we returned. Thank you to those parents who have supported the uniform policy, however, we have noticed a steady rise in the number of students in the incorrect uniform.

This is specifically noted as:

- The wearing of trainers (students are required to wear formal black shoes that can be polished)
- Skirts that are too short (they should be just above the knee)
- Students not wearing a school tie (school ties are available from the school office for £7.00)
- Nose or tongue studs (facial piercings of any kind have never been permitted, this includes the tongue)
- Too many earrings (one small stud or sleeper per ear is permitted)
- Hoodies (must not be worn in school)
- Eskdale School PE kit to be worn (no football shirts, hoodies etc)

From Monday 28th February, we will be having a renewed focus around these aspects of uniform. Given the time of year, trousers will not be a focus in the coming weeks, but I would still expect students to abide by the expectations set out in our policy. I would, however, advise families to check our trouser guidance before purchasing new trousers for the summer term. Where students are found to be in breach of the uniform policy, we will be contacting parents/carers. Our policy for uniform can be found on our website. Therefore, could we please ask for your support in reinforcing these expectations at home, so that students arrive in school in the correct uniform, and we avoid the need for any sanction or confiscation. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year, if you wish to discuss this further or require any additional support.

School Transport

As you are aware many of our students travel by school buses and the expectations of the standards of behaviour are the same as those in school. There has recently been some damage on one of our buses and whilst we have identified the culprits, please remind your child about their conduct on the journey to and from school. In addition, students should only travel on the bus they have been allocated to.

Finally, we hope you have a wonderful half term break and that students are rested and recharged ready to return to learning on Monday 28th February. As always stay safe and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J Pickerill
Acting Headteacher



Mr P Dixon
Acting Headteacher