



Our ref: MME/HFT
Date: 19th December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of a busy first term I would like to update you on some of the events that have taken place.

Our GCSE summer results show that we are the most improved school in Leeds. I am delighted to say that our current Year 11 students are projected to make even better progress in the summer of 2019 and the pattern continues with our Year 10s in the summer of 2020. Our A Level results in 2019 will also significantly improve.

A focus for the Government is improving the progress of disadvantaged students and narrowing the gap between them and other students. A recent report in July highlighted that at the current national rate, the gap would take 100 years to be closed. Our projections indicate that we will do this in three years – a rate of more than 30 times faster than the national average.

We are seeing a step change in the achievement of students in every year in the school. We are looking forward to our Ofsted inspection in the spring where we will be demonstrating that Pudsey Grangefield is a good school with the drive and ambition to make further significant improvements in the very near future.

Recently we held our first PSHEE Day and were delighted to secure a selection of external speakers to work with our students. Speakers included St Giles Trust, the Sexual Health Team, Road Safety and our Trust Partners, HSBC worked with Sixth Form students to look at finance as they consider the next stage of their career path. During a separate visit we were pleased to welcome The Peace Museum who worked with Year 7 students in workshops to consider the topic of British Values.

Below are a list of trips that have taken place during this term:

- Huddersfield University Taster Day
- Leeds University
- A Christmas Carol Theatre trip (Performing Arts Department)
- A visit to Parliament
- Leeds Playhouse – A Christmas Carol (English Department)
- The Progression Module Awards Ceremony
- Huddersfield University Photography trip
- Drax Power Station
- Kala Sangam Kate Tempest performance
- Student Council Civic Hall visit
- Well-being walk
- Year 11 Blackpool trip
- Duke of Edinburgh Gold qualifying expedition
- Autumn term sporting fixtures



Just this week a group of top ability Year 11 students were extremely fortunate in being able to benefit from the link that we have with Leeds University as they visited the Mechanical Engineering Department. The visit has opened the students' eyes to the opportunities that a career in engineering and studying at a top university offers.

Our extra-curricular programme has grown this half term as over 30 new clubs have been introduced. If your child has not signed up for one please encourage them to do so.

The generosity and support of students, parents/carers and staff for our charity fundraising has been overwhelming over the past few years. In the last four years alone we estimate that over £13,000 has been raised for a number of well deserving charities such as Martin House Childrens Hospice, Children in Need and Comic Relief. Our most recent efforts raised a staggering £1,753 in support of Children in Need. I am delighted to announce that our fantastic fundraising efforts have been recognised by the campaign Headquarters for Red Nose Day in London. The campaign HQ contacted us to say that we are a shining example of successful fundraising and would like to use our plans and photographs to share with other schools and organisations in their official fundraising pack for 2019.

Once again, thanks to your generosity, we have been inundated this week with donations of biscuits and chocolates in support of our Elderly Christmas campaign. All donations will be delivered by our friends at the Calverley Rotary Club on Christmas Day, along with a Christmas lunch, to the elderly in our community who will be alone.

Students from across Year 7 to 13 took to the stage this week in our fabulous festive production of Winter Curse. It was a joy to watch such a wide range of talents and abilities come together to create a spectacular performance. Thank you to all students, staff and parents who supported this key event and made it such a success. We also raised £696 for Martin House Childrens' Hospice by selling cakes and refreshments at the interval.

2019 dates for your diary:

Monday 7 th January	School re-opens at the usual time
Thursday 10 th January	Year 11 Parents Evening
Tuesday 29 th January	Post 16 Careers Fair
Thursday 31 st January	Year 13 Parents Evening
Thursday 14 th February	Year 9 Parents Evening
Friday 15 th February	School closes for half term break

Finally, I would like to wish you and your family a merry Christmas and all the best for 2019. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 7th January at the usual time.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr M McKelvie
Principal**

