



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

4 December 2020

Change of date for Staff Training Day: Friday 18 December

Dear Parents/Carers,

Since the October half term, we have experienced a particularly challenging time with positive cases of COVID-19. This has resulted in the isolation and closure of Year 13, Year 11, half of Year 8 and a Year 7 class. Throughout this challenging period, we recognise that we have sent many communications, made many calls to families during the working day and at the weekend and recognise that asking a child to self-isolate is always unwelcome news. I would like to sincerely thank all members of our community for their support, cooperation and feedback so that we can work together to maintain our provision and all that is special about our school.

With the support of the RKLТ and our Local Governing Body, I write to communicate a change to our Staff Training days for the 20/21 academic year that will further support families and also our provision. The training day that was currently planned to take place on Friday 26 March will now take place on **Friday 18 December**. Students will therefore finish the Autumn term at **3.30pm on Thursday 17 December**. There are number of benefits to this change:

- Although not avoiding this, it minimises the likelihood of members of our school community needing to isolate over the Christmas period.
- This creates a period of 7 days outside of school before Christmas day and therefore reduces the length of time social contact with others can take place.
- The final day of term usually involves an early finish and this will not take place on Friday 26 March. This change, therefore, increases the teaching time on Friday 26 March.
- Due to the possibility of further cases and students already isolating in the final week of term, attendance is likely to be much higher on Friday 26 March.

Given the number of cases that we have seen in school, similar to other large secondary schools, this change recognises the circumstances that we currently face and better serves our community. It is important to note that this isn't a reduction in teaching time in any way – in fact, this is a change that increases teaching time. We recognise that this change may have possible implications for childcare arrangements for younger years. If this is the case, we ask that you email mail@harrogategrammar.co.uk by Wednesday 9 December.

I thank you for your understanding and patience at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Neil Renton
Headteacher