



24 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we near the end of this term, I want to express my gratitude to you and your children for the positive way in which they have returned to school. We have now completed 3 full weeks and it feels like we have never been away! The school is, once again, full of energy and enthusiasm. Students have adapted well to our new expectations and we are extremely proud of their approach to school!

After the Easter break, we will be having a real focus on attendance. It is crucial that all students attend school every day. A day missed is an opportunity missed. Please support us by sending your child to school every day. We want to ensure that every student at Graham School has the same opportunities to learn and make progress; full attendance is one way of ensuring this. We will continue to contact you if we have concerns about your child's attendance at school. If you need any additional support for your child to improve their attendance please contact the relevant Head of Year or Behaviour Support Officer.

We will also be focusing on school uniform after the holidays. We value your support in ensuring your children wear their uniform correctly reflected in how smart most students look every day. For a reminder about uniform expectations please see our website: <https://grahamschool.org/uniform/>. If you have any questions about uniform please contact the relevant Head of Year or Behaviour Support Officer.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding around the ongoing coronavirus situation. We appreciate the challenges when we ask children to self-isolate at home. However, we are, at all times following government guidance and working closely with NHS Test and Trace and with Public Health England. We will continue to follow all guidance in order to support the journey towards the eventual easing of the current lockdown.

We have, this week, issued home testing kits for the Easter break - please continue to test your children twice a week. If your child tests positive with a home lateral flow test they need to take a PCR test to confirm the result. You should also get a PCR test for your child if they have any of the symptoms of coronavirus. You can organise a PCR test by telephoning 119 or booking an appointment online. This link details all North Yorkshire testing sites and includes a link to the test appointment booking page: [Book a coronavirus \(covid-19\) test if you've got symptoms](#). The testing centre at the William Street car park is open from 8.00am - 11.30am every day for testing and from 1.00pm - 8.00pm for you to collect a PCR test to do at home, if you need one. We have some PCR tests available at school if you need one during term time. Please continue to inform us if your child tests positive by phoning school or emailing hello@gra.hlt.academy. We will continue to check for emails during the Easter holidays and will contact you if we need any further information.

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As you may be aware, we are currently working with our Y11 students to assess them for their GCSE grades. After the Easter break Y11 students will be involved in formal assessments during lessons. It is, therefore, important that they take some time to revise during Easter. They will have full guidance from their teachers about how and what to revise. Google Classroom remains the location for many revision materials alongside other internet sites. Any questions should be directed to the relevant subject teacher. At the end of the assessment process, completed work has to be marked, moderated and compiled for the exam boards. In order to support this, there will be an additional staff training day on **Friday 28 May** when school will be closed to all students.

We have been very pleased with the response of our Y8 students to the options process. The next stage of the process is to collate their choices. We will be back in touch after the Easter break with regular updates for all Y8 students and parents.

Finally, at the end of this week you will receive the next edition of our '*Graham Gazette*'. I know you will enjoy reading it - we are very proud of what has been achieved in recent months! I hope you will join me in congratulating the students and staff of the school on their hard work and commitment.

I hope you enjoy a restful break despite the continued lockdown restrictions which limit who we can see and where we can go. However, hopefully things will change in the not too distant future. I am looking forward to a positive summer term for us all.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Robins'.

Emma Robins
Principal