



14 July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

It's hard to believe the end of the school year is so close. It has been a very busy and positive year and, before updating you on a few key issues, I would like to thank you for your continued support during the year. The progress we are making is very much a team effort between you, your children and the staff at school. There has been significant improvement this year, which we are very proud of. Together we are '#TeamGraham' and together, we will continue to improve and develop.

This year we have enjoyed various visits from external providers who have evaluated our school. They have been extremely positive about what they have seen commenting on our polite and courteous students, the good progress being made in class and the high expectations around behaviour. We are very proud that behaviour has improved so much and we will continue to reinforce our expectations in this area in the future. We have also reflected on areas for development and will continue to work hard to make further improvements.

We also value feedback from you, your children and from staff in the school. During the year, we have undertaken surveys to allow us to reflect on the views of our community. Thank you if you completed a survey earlier in the year. Following feedback around communication, we have started to work with the Edulink app which we will continue to develop next year. Amongst other things, we are thinking carefully about the timing of meetings and events at school to try to allow more parents to attend. We will survey you again next year - please support us by completing the survey when it arrives.

We will continue to work on a range of things - supporting our teachers and staff to further develop their expertise, working with other schools in our Trust to share ideas and support each other. We are continuously reviewing our curriculum to ensure it is the best it can be for our students and we are actively developing links with local colleges and providers to ensure a smooth transition when students leave us. Last week, we had our transition days for Year 6 students joining us in Year 7 next year. We are delighted to be welcoming the largest year group for a while and they certainly made a great first impression.

In order to be successful, we need your children to attend school every day. Next year, there will be a continued and rigorous approach to improving attendance at Graham School. We will continue to communicate with you regarding your child's attendance and will be expecting the highest possible attendance from all students. It is worth remembering that there are 190 school days in a year which leaves 175 'non-school' days to be spent on leisure and other activities. In addition, time at school supports wellbeing and allows students to thrive both academically and socially. Students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve at higher levels than those that do not have regular attendance. This can also impact on their future career and life chances. Please send your child to school every day!

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Most significantly this year, we have been extremely impressed with our students - your children. They have continued to shine and always make a very positive impression on visitors. They are polite around school, greeting each other and staff in a friendly manner. They are supportive of each other and when involved in meetings or discussions with visitors to the school they engage enthusiastically. This includes conversations with visitors assessing the school, dialogue with people presenting workshops or extracurricular opportunities and also when they take part in visits outside of school. The involvement of students in activities beyond the classroom is growing, and is something we will be seeking to extend further next year. Trips and visits offer a chance for important personal development and learning which we seek to offer to our students.

This week (Thursday 14 July / Friday 15 July) we will be enjoying our first school production for a while, *'High School Musical'*. It has been great to see students from Year 7 to Year 10 working together to create the show. The teamwork and empathy in the cast and crew is wonderful. It promises to be excellent - I hope you have got your tickets. If not, they are available from reception.

Next week we will be sharing our latest *'Graham Gazette'* with you. It will be a true reflection of our achievements this half term and I hope you will enjoy reading it. On the last day of term, next Friday 22 July, I would like to invite any student who wishes to, to wear non uniform. This is by way of a thank you for everything that has been achieved this year. It also means that any good quality spare uniform that you would like to donate for our uniform shop can be handed in to reception. This initiative will help us to support you by offering preloved uniform to you. Our uniform shop will be available on Friday 29 July from 11am to 1pm in the Main Hall. It will also be open for you on Monday 5 September from 4pm - 5pm. Please contact the school directly if you would like any additional information about this.

The new school term will start on Tuesday 6 September at 8.30am for students entering Year 7 and Year 11 with everyone else returning at 8.30am on Wednesday 7 September. We will be sharing some additional information with you towards the end of the holiday. Please keep an eye out for messages and / or emails and follow us on social media. (**Twitter:** [Graham School \(@grahamschool\)](#) / **Twitter** **Facebook:** [Graham School - Home](#) | **Facebook** **Website:** <http://grahamschool.org>)

Please enjoy some quality time with friends and family during the holiday. I know many of you will be working very hard but I hope there can be some time to relax and recharge the batteries - everyone deserves it!

Thank you again for being a key part of #TeamGraham.

With very best wishes,

Emma Robins
Principal