



Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

It is hard to believe that we have now reached the final week of term and that Christmas is only a week away. It has been another busy term and all of our students and staff deserve a well-earned break.

My thanks to all the parents who responded to our Parent Engagement Survey. You gave us some important feedback and we will be working hard next term to respond positively to your suggestions.

Can I also thank those of you who supported our students by being members of the audience for our school production of Matilda last week. It was a wonderful event and an excellent opportunity for our students to showcase their talents. My thanks to all the members of staff who gave so generously of their time.

### **Staff who are leaving at the end of term:**

It is important to acknowledge the amazing service that the following teachers have given to The Heathland School for many years. All have shown incredible dedication to our students and are skilled professionals.

Mrs L. Cutts (Head of Design Technology)	retiring after 36 years of service at The Heathland
Mrs E. Turner (Acting Deputy Headteacher)	leaving after 25 years for a career break
Mrs R. Lounds (Head of Year 7*/SHoY)	leaving after 9 years to take an Assistant Headteacher position at another school
Ms H. Dinkha (Teacher of English)	leaving to work closer to home

\* Mr H. Allen will be taking the role of Head of Year 7 next term

### **Staff who are joining The Heathland in January 2024**

Mr G. Sangha	joining as Deputy Headteacher – Pupil Support
Ms C. Parsons	joining as Head of Technology
Ms H. Khan	joining as a Teacher of English
Ms D. Ashtey	joining as a Teacher of English
Mr D. Bell	joining as Technology Technician

### **Forthcoming Pre-Public Examinations**

Year 12: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Year 13: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

*Please note: Year 12 and 13 A level students will have study leave when they are not sitting exams.*



**Artsmark  
Silver Award**  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



## Wellbeing News

I hope you and your child(ren) are looking forward to the upcoming holiday. Although most will be looking forward to this time off school, this can be a difficult time for some students who miss the routine of school. In last week's Wellbeing Moment the students were reminded of things that they can do to support their wellbeing during this holiday period, please ask them about this. Some examples were to take time out for yourself, get back into sleep routines, exercise, and check in on friends and family.

Following on from our previous Wellbeing Workshop for parents/carers and the results from the Parent Survey we would like to run a Workshop on how to support your child with exam pressure and anxiety, particularly suitable for parents with students in Year 11 & 13. For your information we have also sent an exam stress questionnaire to all students in Year 11 & 13, to help us identify further those students who need some support. Please encourage them to complete this.

The workshop will take place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 6.30pm - 7.30pm, tea and coffee will be provided. You will be directed to the room if you enter via the pedestrian or car park entrance. During the workshop I will share some strategies to support your teenager's wellbeing, this will include information on what is stress and how it is shown in our students as well as strategies to support your teenagers to help them to cope with this exam anxiety.

There are a limited number of spaces available and you can sign up via the link below. Please can I ask that you just sign up for one space (but please feel free to bring somebody else along). Also, please can I stress if you sign up please do attend or let us know in advance if you can't come.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parentcarer-wellbeing-workshop-exam-stress-and-anxiety-tickets-779314910877?aff=oddtcreator>

### Arrangements for the end of term

This term ends with a staggered finish from breaktime onwards on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

### Arrangements for the new term

We return to school on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January as normal for timetabled lessons.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 is a staff training day and pupils should not attend school.

### Dates for the Spring Term 2024

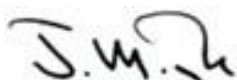
**Monday 8 January to Thursday 28 March 2024**

*Half Term – Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February*

*Easter holiday – Friday 29 March to Friday 12 April 2024*

Thank you as always for your ongoing support. Please accept my best wishes for the festive period and the New Year when it comes.

Yours faithfully,



J.M Rose  
**Headteacher**