

Principal:
Lesley Welsh



18 February 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Year 8 Half-term update

I hope this finds you and your family well and trust that you are looking forward to an enjoyable half-term break. We have had a very busy half-term in school and you will shortly receive a copy of our Pindar Press newsletter - I trust you enjoy reading all about the special events we have had in school!

As you are aware, school closes for the half-term break at 3pm today. School reopens at 8.35am on Monday 28 February for all students. Please note that there is a planned training day on Tuesday 1 March when school is closed to all students, before reopening again on Wednesday 2 March. We have prepared a first draft of our holiday schedule for the next academic year and this is attached to this letter; it will shortly be finalised and placed on the school website for reference.

We have been informed by North Yorkshire County Council that they are no longer funding Free School Meal Vouchers via schools but are funding families directly via their household support fund (see link below)

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/household-support-fund>

This is available to families who are eligible for Council Tax reduction and does not relate to school holiday periods. If this applies to you, the Council should have already been in touch but they have asked us to share this message.

As you are aware, there has been a change to the Key Stage Three Curriculum for the next academic year and we recently held an online presentation to explain these changes. If you were unable to attend, you will find a copy of the presentation here: <https://gps.hslt.academy/key-stage-3/> We hope you will find this useful. There is a Parents' Evening on Tuesday 8 March from 15.10 - 18.10 which will take place virtually using the Edulink platform. More details including how to book appointments will be shared straight after half-term and we do hope that you will be able to attend.

I am grateful to those families who completed the Hope Sentamu Learning Trust survey last week; we are looking forward to receiving the full feedback. We value the home-school partnership very much and do take your feedback seriously so appreciate you sharing your views. I hope you have managed to download / access the Edulink app which should improve communication between home and school. If you are interested in playing a larger role in school, you could consider standing for the Parent Governor position which was promoted yesterday. I would be delighted if a member of our school community felt able to support the school in this manner; please contact the school office if you have any queries.

Cont'd ...

George Pindar School
Moor Lane, Eastfield, Scarborough YO11 3LW
Tel: 01723 582194
Email: hello@gps.hslt.academy
Website: gps.hslt.academy

Hope SENTAMU
LEARNING TRUST

Part of Hope Sentamu Learning Trust www.hslt.academy
Company registered in England no. 07559537. VAT no. 117456808.
Registered office: Rawcliffe Drive, Clifton, York, YO30 6ZS.



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As we approach the half-term break, this is a good opportunity for us to revisit and reset our basic expectations. Over the last three years, there have been huge improvements in school and we want these to continue but we need your help. We shall be relaunching our uniform and behaviour expectations with all students after the half-term break and there will be an opportunity for you to hear more about these with our Vice Principal Mr Murray in a drop-in session. Ensuring that students wear the correct uniform and understand our expectations helps conversations at school remain tightly focused on progress and learning. Please take a moment to revisit our policies here: <https://gps.hslt.academy/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/GPS-Behaviour-Policy-September-2021.pdf> and <https://gps.hslt.academy/uniform/> and ensure that your child has the correct uniform on the return to school. We are grateful for your support.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of our school and hope that you enjoy the half-term break.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Welsh
Principal



Holiday Dates for the Academic Year 2022-2023

The Training/Professional Development Days are as follows:

1. *Monday 5 September 2022.*
2. *Tuesday 21 February 2023.*
3. *November 2022 – Date to be confirmed*
4. *Monday 24 July 2023.*
5. *Tuesday 25 July 2023.*

Term dates for students are as follows:

	<u>SCHOOL CLOSSES</u> <u>After school</u>	<u>SCHOOL RE-OPENS</u> <u>Morning</u>
2022		
Autumn Half Term	Friday 21 October	Tuesday 6 September
Christmas	Friday 16 December	Monday 31 October
		Tuesday 3 January 2023
2023		
Spring Half term	Friday 10 February	Monday 20 February
Easter	Friday 31 March	Monday 17 April
May Day	Friday 28 April	Tuesday 2 May
Spring Bank Week	Friday 26 May	Monday 5 June
Summer	Friday 21 July	