



Awarded gold in the Sheffield school games 2022/23



SEM/AEK

27 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of a very busy term, I want to take this time to say thank you for all your support and celebrate what has been an extremely busy but rewarding first full year as Headteacher at Handsworth Grange.

I am reminded daily what a privilege and honour it is to be part of this wonderful school community and how much our school means to our community. I am acutely aware every day of the progress we have made across our school and the work we have yet to do. We have already made significant positive steps forward as part of our school improvement journey and this is evident daily.

We will continue to strive forward together as we head into this final term and work tirelessly to provide the excellent education this community deserves. We are committed to ensuring all our children at Handsworth Grange are at the heart of all we do, and our team of skilled, hardworking staff remain dedicated to giving your child the best educational experiences.

As parents and carers, you make an important contribution to this, and I am excited to build on this through the implementation of our 'Family Strategy' which is available on our school website.

It has been a very busy term at Handsworth Grange with our first Ski trip for many years; which was a huge success and we are planning to do again next year. We also have our first Spanish trip to Valencia that leaves over Easter.

It gives me great pleasure to share that we are currently relaunching the Duke of Edinburgh at Handsworth Grange and I am sure this will continue to engage and enthuse many of our students. We will continue to build our enrichment program and to consistently reward all our students who make a positive contribution to our school community daily. I believe that learning beyond the classroom is vital to every child's educational and cultural development.

We continue to promote our values and they remain at the heart of all we do moving forward at Handsworth Grange. Our values are:

***'Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Present'***



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As we head into the summer term our Year 11 students will start their GCSE examinations, their conduct in recent trial exams has been excellent and we will continue to run intervention sessions for all our students in these final weeks before exams start. Details of intervention sessions will also be available on our school website.

Year 10 will also be shortly embarking on their week of work experience upon our return after Easter. This valuable real-life experience of the working world is incredibly important and will enable all our students to gain vital skills on their educational journey. Miss Grapes will be available for any parents or students who may require any additional support or guidance.

Can I take this opportunity to remind all parents of our uniform guidelines, this is also available on the school website. Students will not be permitted to wear leggings or sports jumpers or hoodies, if these are in school, students will be expected to remove them, and they will be given an alternative item of the school uniform for the day. All students are expected to wear a blazer and a tie, if you have any issues with accessing any of our school uniform, please contact your child's Head of Year and we will be able to offer support.

Ensuring good attendance is crucial for your child's academic success, it ensures they don't miss crucial learning points in lessons as teachers move through the curriculum; each lesson builds on the one before and without this, students unfortunately have gaps in their learning. Promoting positive attendance is a shared responsibility and your support plays a significant role in achieving this. If your child is unwell and can't attend school, please make sure you notify school the same day. You will also find guidance on promoting positive attendance on our school website, this also details our approach to taking holidays during term time. I have included the updated guidance on penalty notice fines from Sheffield, the new system for penalty notices comes into force after 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

<https://hgsc.co.uk/parents/attendance-and-holidays>

If there are any challenges or concerns affecting your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact our Attendance Manager, Mrs Parker, or your child's Head of Year. We are here to assist and work collaboratively with you to find solutions that support your child's education.

We always want to ensure our students feel comfortable in school, and to remain active in lessons to ensure they are engaging with their learning. Students will not be given permission to leave lessons for the toilet during learning time unless it is an emergency or there is a medical reason. This is to support teaching and learning and



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ensure all our students have the best lesson experience each, and every day. All our students have access to the toilets before the school day, at break, at lunch, between all five lessons during the day and again at the end of the day. We feel this gives ample opportunities for the toilet and would welcome the support of parents to promote this with your children. If there are evidenced-based medical reasons, then of course, we would support with a toilet pass.

We are currently in the process of reviewing all our passes in school and will be working with students and parents to ensure these are used in the right way, by the right students. I would like to thank you for your support in this matter.

Students will return to school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April, at the usual time.

I will keep you updated throughout the final term as to our plans, events, and celebrations.

I will ensure we maintain the very highest of expectations for all our children at Handsworth Grange and build on this at every opportunity.

Once again, thank you for your commitment and ongoing support.

Have a restful Easter break with friends and family, and I look forward to continuing to work with you all upon our return.

Yours sincerely

Suzy Mattock  
Headteacher