



Menwith Hill Road  
Darley  
Harrogate  
North Yorkshire  
HG3 2RA

25/10/2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we reach the end of what has been a full and rewarding eight-week half term, I would like to take a moment to share some key updates with you and celebrate the progress we've made together. It has been a long half term, but I am proud to say that our pupils have returned with dedication and enthusiasm, adapting well and demonstrating growth and resilience.

Compared to this time last year, our school has nearly doubled in student numbers, which has brought an inspiring energy to our community. Despite the increase in students, we have seen a **25% reduction in behavioural incidents**, reflecting the positive atmosphere and strong sense of belonging within our school. As an SEMH school, we recognise that crisis behaviours are part of the journey, and we are fully committed to supporting our pupils through these moments. Notably, the use of physical interventions has significantly decreased as the term has progressed, demonstrating both our students' development and the skill of our dedicated staff.

We have also seen a **20% increase in attendance** from last year. For those who were with us last year, you may recall that illness and absences led us to close several classes. This year, however, we are pleased to report that we've maintained consistent class openings thanks to a strong team of newly recruited staff who are dedicated to our students' well-being and success.

I am excited to share that we have appointed two new teachers, both of whom will join us in January. Mr. Thompson, a qualified PE teacher currently contributing to our interventions team, and Mr. Manning, a Deputy Headteacher from a local primary school with a wealth of experience, will bring valuable expertise to our teaching team.

Additionally, we are thrilled to announce our success in securing an enterprise fund, which will support the launch of **two new student-led businesses**. These businesses will focus on creating flower arrangements and producing handmade paper for Christmas cards—a project we are eager to share with you in the coming half term.

Our commitment to future employment pathways has also grown, with new partnerships in place across North Yorkshire. In an exciting development, the BBC Bitesize team will be visiting our school to highlight *nature-based careers*, complementing the ongoing work by the YES project in developing our students' career interests and opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in us as we strive to make each day in school a positive, meaningful experience for your children. We wish you all a restful half term break and look forward to welcoming our pupils back when school reopens on **Monday, 4th November**.

Best Wishes,

Mr Roberts  
Principal  
Forest Moor School

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