



Dear parents and guardians of Graham School students,

Firstly, I wish to say that it has been an honour and a privilege to work with your children for the last year and a half. It has been both one of the greatest challenges and one of the most rewarding periods in my career as a teacher. I love both the staff and students of Graham School.

We have done a lot together this year to overcome the stigma that comes with a Special Measures OfSTED inspection. The children have had many more chances to experience the world and the opportunities available to them and have built positive relationships between themselves and with staff that will live with them forever. School shouldn't be about only the results but about the memories of experiences shared.

There has been much done to improve the outcomes for the students as they leave us. Students in year 11 have had fantastic support from all staff to prepare for their exams. That support programme will continue this year for our current year 10 and beyond. Our new reporting system provides you with more regular understanding of how your child is doing. This also will continue.

We have done much to improve the quality of teaching and learning and the behaviour of students. Many of you who have been in to see me have shared how your children are coming home saying how much more they are enjoying school and that they are able to make greater progress in class. A recent review from the local authority also commented on the improvement in standards of attitudes to learning and behaviour in classrooms. There is still a lot to do but I know that together, staff, students and carers, Graham School will continue to improve. It is a long journey to outstanding and in working together I know the school can achieve this.

When OfSTED visited us in December they also saw the first shoots of progress to restore the school to its former position as the preferred school for children in Scarborough. Over the year we have taken in many new students who have been impressed by the way your children have been focussed on their learning and in the caring culture that we are re-establishing within the school community. All of us, together.

You will notice that I have used "we" many times in this letter. No one person can be responsible for the work that has taken place this year to change the fortunes of the school. Your children have an amazing group of teachers that work with them, caring for each of them, putting in every effort to give them a great educational experience. My thanks go to every one of them that I have worked with this year.

The school is in excellent hands moving forward. Apart from the academisation which will happen in the next year, Miss Robins, currently Deputy Headteacher, will be remaining at the school as Interim Headteacher to continue the work started this year, along with the other members of the best senior team I have ever worked with in my 20 years in the teaching profession. She shares my passion for Graham School and will be supported by both Hope Learning Trust and the local authority to keep momentum going forward in September. Miss Robins is an outstanding leader and brings her experience of turning round challenging schools to the role. I have every confidence in her and the rest of the senior team to continue the work they started this year.

The new term starts on Tuesday 4 September; we are having a staggered start to the day. Students should arrive at the following times: **Y7: 8.40am, Y8 and Y9: 10.10am and Y10 and Y11: 11.30.** We would also like to remind you that students should be wearing their new school uniform in September. We appreciate your support in ensuring all students are smartly presented in September. All uniform details are on the attached leaflet, as sent to you previously.

I leave Graham School with incredibly fond memories. Thank you for your patience and support throughout the past year and a half. I hope that I leave Graham School in a better place than when I arrived. I wish every person that works at the school, staff and students, the greatest success in the coming years.

Yours Faithfully

Paul Brockwell
Headteacher