



# Tadcaster Grammar School

*'A Culture of Excellence'*

17 July 2018

Dear Parents

## **Guided Learning Hours**

I am writing to you at the end of an exceptionally busy year for your child in terms of the academic demands of A Level studies, Work Experience, gaining the necessary voluntary work if required and the start of their UCAS, apprenticeship or other career applications.

Students will have now received their mock examination results and begun discussions with their class teachers and tutors about work they will need to do in terms of feedback and study over the summer holidays. It is vital that they maintain their strong work ethic over the summer holiday, returning to study topics from Year 12 and looking at possible topics in Year 13 that they can begin to research.

This year, I have spent a lot of time researching how we as a Sixth Form can support our students further as they enter Year 13. Through visiting other schools and colleges and most of all listening to our young people about their wants and needs, I am delighted to announce that as a Sixth Form we are investing in a ninth learning hour from September 2018 that we are calling, Guided Learning.

For each subject your child studies, they will receive a compulsory Guided Learning hour. During their Guided Learning hours, students will be set work by their subject teachers to complete in examination conditions. This may take the form of past papers, revision work from Year 12 or vocabulary testing. Students will receive feedback from each subject and working alongside their Tutors will be able to set themselves targets for improvement, which can be completed in their other Independent Study periods. The Guided Learning Hours will be staffed by an invigilator who will oversee student attendance at the sessions and work alongside Mrs Tomlinson our Sixth Form Administrator, who will inform you if your child has not attended their designated sessions.

In preparation of launching the Guided Learning, I have met with each Subject Leader at KS5 who has welcomed and embraced this initiative. We all believe it will truly support students in Year 13 providing information on students knowledge base and allowing for step by step targets to help them move towards their target grades and post 18 choices. We also hope it will alleviate some of the examination stress students can feel, giving them confidence and building their resilience. This certainly seems to have been the benefits other institutions have experienced, as well as an increase in performance and results.

I have launched this initiative with Year 12 this morning in assembly. There is also a Year 13 parents Information Evening on Tuesday 11th September at 7pm in the Main Hall where I will discuss this further - please put it in your diaries, it would be great to see you there. Thank you in advance for your support of the Guided Learning hours, which I truly believe will have a positive and significant impact upon your child's examination preparation and their health and wellbeing.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Ros Knapton

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