



October 2018

Dear Parents

Welcome to our Sixth Form

I am writing to introduce myself in my role as Director of Sixth Form. As parents I am sure you are already beginning to consider the options available for your child next year. For many of our students the next stage in their education will be A Levels and other Level 3 courses, so I thought I would write to explain some of the reasons why I believe our Sixth Form is the right place for them to continue their studies:

Excellent Subject Choice

We offer a very wide and diverse range of A Level and Level 3 courses.

Excellent Teaching and Relationships

Our 'Culture of Excellence' underpins everything we do in our Sixth Form. We are committed to providing excellent teaching and learning, achieved by staff who are passionate about their subjects and eager to share this with our students. We work very hard to enable our students to achieve their potential in a caring and supportive environment, whilst at the same time appreciating that they are now young adults who must be allowed greater autonomy.

One of the most significant benefits of our Sixth Form is that our staff know our students well as learners, their learning styles are understood and, from day one, they are able to build on the strong and established relationships. This is really important when embarking on A Level and Level 3 courses which are a 'step up' from GCSEs in terms of challenge. As soon as the course begins, teachers are planning their lessons with individual needs in mind. We strive for the academic transition to be well structured and seamless.

Excellent Support

Our students tell us that they feel really well prepared for life after Sixth Form. I have been in a fortunate position over the past few weeks to hear former students, who have graduated this year, returning to tell our students how they would not have got to where they are now without the support of our Sixth Form. I can guarantee that this will be the same for your child if they choose to study here next year.

Our dedicated Sixth Form team meet with their students on a daily basis which means we can monitor, advise and support every student. The tutors work with them on a one to one basis, understanding the pressures they face and are a first port of call for students, reassuring them that there is always support. Our Sixth Form Pastoral Officer is also available to help with pastoral issues which can sometimes arise.

A key feature of the Sixth Form is our 'Life Belt' system which identifies students at an early stage who are struggling with the demands of Sixth Form life. The fact that we know our students well already means that we can recognise those who may be struggling to make the transition to Sixth Form study and rapidly put systems in place to support them. This support, together with a bespoke tutorial programme and access to high quality careers advice, equips them with the toolkit needed to be successful in the Sixth Form and beyond.

Excellent Outcomes

Tadcaster Grammar School students achieve consistently highly and virtually all of our students' progress to Higher Education and Apprenticeships or other employment and in the table below you can see how our students compare to the national average.

A2 Grades at Tadcaster Grammar School v National Average

Grade	2016	2017	2018	National Average
A*	12%	10%	12%	8%
A* - A	31%	38%	38%	26%
A* - B	58%	67%	63%	53%
A* - C	78%	85%	77%	77%
A* - D	92%	96%	93%	92%
A* - E	99%	98%	98%	98%

Currently your child will be having or will have had their first meeting with House Leaders or our Leadership Team to discuss with them their initial thoughts about their Post 16 choices. This includes helping them to get the most out of our Sixth Form Open Evening and to discuss with them entry requirements onto courses. I look forward to meeting you at our **Sixth Form Open Evening which takes place on Thursday 11th October 2018 from 6.00pm.**

In the meantime, if you would like to come in and speak with me in more detail about what our Sixth Form offer, I would be delighted to organise this.

Yours sincerely

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