



**The King's School**

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## THE KING'S SCHOOL

14 February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

### School Developments

I wanted to write to give you an update on key developments this term.

The end of this term sees us saying farewell to Mrs Briggs. I would like to express my sincere thanks on behalf of staff, students and parents for everything she has contributed to King's. Her commitment and dedication to improving outcomes for young people cannot be questioned, and I believe she leaves King's in a much stronger position than when she arrived. I will continue to be at King's for a larger proportion of the week and there are two new additions to the senior team - Mr Pinto, Deputy Head (Standards and Achievement) and Mr Lunn, Assistant Head (Inclusion); both come from outstanding institutions. I will keep parents up to date with the recruitment of a new Head of School.

As you know, there have been significant changes at King's since September, with a new pace of change that staff and students have responded to positively. All the systems, policies and processes have been overhauled and a huge amount of progress has been made across a number of areas, not least key improvements to behaviour and teaching. As I am sure you can appreciate, when moving at high speed, one or two mistakes can be made. We have just finished our first full cycle of assessments and sending new reports out and, whilst on the whole the feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive, it is fair to say that there have been some glitches that need ironing out for next time; please accept my apologies for these and many thanks for your patience.

In the Christmas newsletter I said that two of our priorities were SEND and Communication. I believe that we have made a positive start around improving how we work with SEND students and their families; plenty of work is planned around this area and I am determined that all students get the opportunity to flourish in a happy school. The improvements around communication is ongoing. The introduction of Show my Homework has been extremely well received and this will support the positive relationship between home and school. I have uncovered some significant logistical issues around telecommunications and these will be resolved for the new term to ensure that we meet our commitment to responding to parents within 24 hours.

Priorities for the rest of the year include significant investment in the buildings and resources, building on our areas of strength in sport and performing arts and ensuring that we are placing students in the right groups so they are being challenged at the right level and are being pushed to meet their full potential.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the school.

Yours faithfully

**James Franklin-Smith**  
**Executive Director of Secondary Education**  
**Pontefract Academies Trust**

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