

7 September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Return to school

Further to my previous letter to you, I am sorry to have to report that, despite their recent assurances, the building contractors have now informed us that they will not be able to hand over possession of the site to us this week. This is, to say the least, hugely frustrating and disappointing.

The latest position we have been given is that we will be able to have the pupils/students safely on-site from Wednesday next week, so we are revising plans on that basis.

Our revised plan is as follows:

Friday 10 September

HMS Year 5 – Induction (part 1) off-site at Wentworth Leisure Centre

QE Year 9 – Induction off-site at Hexham Racecourse

QE Year 12 – Welcome to Sixth Form Day off-site at Hexham Abbey and the Queen's Hall

Monday 13 September

HMS Year 5 – Induction (part 2) off-site at Hexham Abbey

HMS Year 6 – Induction off-site – venue to be confirmed

All other HMS and QE year groups – Remote learning including live lessons with teachers

Tuesday 14 September

All HMS and QE year groups – Remote learning including live lessons with teachers

Wednesday 15 September

All HMS and QE year groups physically return to school

Mr Watters and Mr Seaton will write to parents tomorrow with specific details of the above, including transport arrangements for the off-site activities and how to access remote learning.

Whilst completion of the building works is clearly close, we do have some concerns that the contractors will be able to deliver as currently assured, that could push this timeline back by a day or two. In that eventuality, we will have the contingency of remote learning for the remainder of next week, although we very much hope this will not be required. I will confirm either way on Monday.

I am truly sorry about this situation, which is not the start to term in our new facilities that we wanted for our young people, particularly after what has been a very difficult last year and a half for them. I am also sorry for the disruption this will cause parents and appreciate your patience and support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Atkins', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Graeme Atkins
Executive Headteacher