



July 2021

Dear Year 6 Parent/Carer,

We are very excited to be welcoming your child to Harrogate High School in September. As part of our transition programme, we are loaning your child a copy of the book 'Wonder' by R. J. Palacio. They (or you!) may already have read this book: indeed, I know that some of our feeder primary schools have been reading it with their Year 6 pupils, which is wonderful.

We would like all our new Year 7s to arrive in September having read this book. The idea behind this is that they will all have had a common experience that they can talk about. In addition, reading is extremely important to us at HHS, as it supports everyone's literacy development and enables us all to hone excellent communication skills.

In September, all Year 7 English teachers will be exploring aspects of the book with their classes, which will again provide an opportunity for children to talk to each other and their teacher about it. We have chosen 'Wonder' because one of its themes is starting a new school and there are also some very valuable messages in the book.

We would encourage parents/carers to read some of the book, if at all possible, with their child and try to talk with them about it, as this will make reading it extra-enjoyable! There is a film, and an audiobook is available if your child needs any extra support with accessing the story, but ideally reading the book is the aim. If your child has already read the book, then perhaps they could re-read some sections and refresh their memory?

We have prepared a 'Wonder' literacy task sheet to accompany the book (also sent in their pack), and we would suggest that your child looks at some of the tasks over the summer. This will support their understanding of the story and characters. These tasks are optional, and your child does not need to complete them all, but perhaps one or two would be good. They can then bring anything that is the outcome of any of these tasks to share with their English teacher in September (they will also need to return their copy of the book to school).

We hope they love the book as much as we do and look forward to chatting to them about it when we see them!

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Greenwood
Head of School