

Headteacher's Letter

March 2014

Dear Parent

Firstly, as we cross the 'half way point' in the school year, my thanks for your ongoing support. We value the opportunity to work closely with you as much as possible and believe a successful home-school partnership has a tremendous impact on your child's progress at school. We have now undertaken seven parental surveys since September, including at least one for each year group at key events, and the feedback from these continues to be very positive. We value this feedback very much but we are not complacent and have also taken on board any areas of concern for future action.

Diary Dates

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| Friday 7 March 2014 | Non Uniform Day – Diabetes UK |
| Friday 21 March 2014 | Year 10 Pupil Monitoring data and Report published to parents |
| Monday 24 March 2014 | Year 10 Parents Evening Main Hall 4.30-7.30pm |
| Friday 28 March 2014 | Years 9 and 11 Pupil Monitoring data published to parents |
| Monday 31 March 2014 | Headteacher Coffee Morning 9.15 – 10.00am Year 9 Parents Evening Main Hall 4.30-7.30pm |
| Thursday 3 April | Years 7 and 8 Pupil Monitoring data published to parents Year 9 Pathways Form deadline |
| Friday 4 April 2014 | End of Spring Term |

Non Uniform Day on Friday March 7th

I have been asked by the Year 11 Charity Committee for a non-uniform day on the above date this week. This is to raise funds for Diabetes UK. Pupils who wish to participate by coming to school in non-uniform are asked to bring at least £1.00 to donate to this cause on the day.

I am also able to give advance notice that Friday May 2nd will also be a non-uniform day. This has been requested by the Stockfest Committee who are organising our annual Stockfest event later on that day. All funds raised will be going to charities or school projects selected by the Stockfest Committee and the P.T.A. We would ask you to put this date in your diary and join us for this very enjoyable community event with live music, stalls, food and refreshments.

Bus Bays in the Afternoon

If you collect your child by car you will be aware that the bus bays are particularly busy from 3.20pm until 3.45pm. We have a large number of pupils who catch school buses and during this period we have a number of buses waiting until departures start from 3.30pm onwards. This can inevitably lead to congestion in the bus bays if several buses are waiting to move off at the same time.

We would ask for your patience if you are unable to exit Roman Road or our 'collection/drop off' car park straight away. We have had occasions recently when cars have driven around the wrong side of the bus bays rather than wait for the buses to move off. I would remind all drivers that the bus bays are part of the public highway and cars should only exit on the left hand side of the turning area. I am also very concerned that pupils crossing the road at this time will not be expecting cars to be coming from the wrong direction. I thank you for your support in this matter.

Our No Smoking Policy

As you are aware we are a no smoking site and smoking is banned in all buildings and in all areas of the school site for staff, visitors and pupils. This policy is very clear to our pupils with a stepped set of sanctions in place should a pupil be caught smoking, strongly suspected of smoking or in possession of smoking materials. E-cigarettes (or electronic cigarettes) are becoming more popular with adults and young people and, to avoid any confusion, the use of these are also banned on the school site.

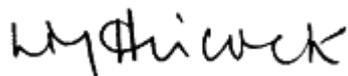
Headteacher's Coffee Morning

My next coffee morning for parents will be held on Monday March 31st with a final one for this year on Thursday June 26th. These are from 9:15am-10:00am. As always this is an informal opportunity to meet with me, hear what is happening at the school and share your views and ideas. At our last coffee morning we discussed the known and anticipated changes to the GCSE examination system and how the school is responding to these to fully prepare our pupils. I look forward to meeting again over a cup of coffee and invite those who have not attended before to join us.

Spring Term Newsletter

Our Spring Term Newsletter will be available at the end of this term on our website. Paper copies are also available for collection from our school office or reception. Do have a look at this as it celebrates many of the activities pupils and staff have been involved in this term. In addition we now have a 'Latest News' section on our website celebrating the many and varied achievements of our pupils in and out of school in their own 'pursuit of personal excellence'.

Yours sincerely



L Hiscock (Miss)
Headteacher