

Headteacher's Letter

June 2014

Dear Parent

It is hard to believe that we are moving rapidly towards the end of another academic year and I take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout this year. The last few weeks of term remain very busy as you will see below.

It continues to be a challenging time in education with a number of changes introduced or planned at national level to be managed in school. This includes changes to the national curriculum and how pupils are examined at the end of their time in secondary school. Our priorities remain to provide all of our pupils with the highest quality learning experience to ensure they are meeting or exceeding expectations and making good progress. This year, for example, we have introduced formal examination weeks for all year groups as part of our drive to prepare all pupils for the challenge of a more formal external assessment at GCSE level in the future.

Dates and Deadlines

I share the following dates with you for your information:

Monday 23rd June: Year 5 Taster Day (pupil places can be booked on our website)

Thursday 26th June: Parents' Coffee Morning (see below)

Friday 27th June: Staff Training Day (school closed for pupils)

Monday June 30th: New Intake Parents' Evening (7.30pm)

Tuesday 1st July: Year 6 Induction Day

Tuesday 1st July: Year 10 Post-16 Taster Day

Monday 7th – Friday 11th July: Years 7, 8, 9 Activities Week

Monday 7th – Friday 18th July: Year 10 Work Experience Placements

Wednesday 23rd July: Years 7, 8, 9, 10 Celebration Assemblies (see below)

Wednesday 23rd July: Last Day of Summer Term (school closes 3.20pm)

Tuesday 2nd September: Staff Training Day (school closed for pupils)

Wednesday 3rd September: Year 7 return to school

Thursday 4th September: Years 8, 9, 10, 11 return to school

Parents' Coffee Morning on Thursday June 26th (9.15 – 10.00am)

My final coffee morning for this year will be on the above date and I extend a warm invitation to all parents to join me, whether this will be your first time or if you have attended before.

This is an informal opportunity to join me for a cup of coffee to hear what is happening in the school and share your views.

I am pleased to confirm that we will also be joined by two representatives from 'HC3S', our break and lunchtime catering service. They are very keen to hear from parents about their views on the daily menu and food choices offered to our pupils. I do hope you can join us and possibly help to shape the future choices offered, especially in light of a further government announcement this week about the range pupils can be offered.

Celebration Assemblies Wednesday July 23rd

On our last morning of term we will, as in previous years, be holding our year group celebration assemblies and parents are very welcome to join us for these in the Main Hall. The expected start times are as follows:

Year 7: 9.15am **Year 8:** 10.15am **Year 9:** 11.30am **Year 10:** 12.30pm

Staffing

Mr Allsopp has been away this term due to poor health and we send him our best wishes at this time. Fortunately Mr Lucas has been able to step in and, with Mr Langdown's support, ensure pupils have been able to continue with their practical assignments in lessons. We hope parents will agree this has proved a much better experience for pupils than with a supply teacher who would have only been able to supervise set cover work. My thanks to the department team and we, of course, look forward to Mr Allsopp's return.

Uniform

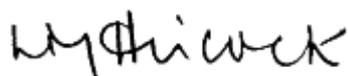
As we near the end of this school year I would remind all parents planning to purchase school uniform for September before the holidays to ensure all items meet our uniform code. This year we introduced a set style for all school skirts and trousers and parents can check the details of these on our school website or by contacting the school.

StockFest

In May our annual StockFest event took place for the sixth year running. There is no doubt that this event exceeds itself every year and is a true community event involving pupils, staff, parents and friends of the school in organising and hosting a wonderful celebration of talent.

This year £1350 was raised overall from ticket sales, food and refreshments with a large proportion of this going towards the maintenance and upgrading of our popular farm. In addition £500 was raised from the Years 7 and 8 stalls to go towards our ongoing sponsorship of Christina Ithunga, a pupil at Kibanzanga School in Uganda. The money raised by pupils is enabling Christina to complete her secondary education and we hope to extend this to a second pupil at the school next year because the fundraising response has been so positive.

I would like to extend my thanks on behalf of the school to all involved in making this such a resounding success again and thank all those who came along and supported this event on the day.



Yours sincerely,
L Hiscock (Miss), Headteacher

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