

Headteacher's Letter, December 2014

3rd December 2014

Dear Parent

I am delighted to report that since my last letter to parents in September our GCSE results for this year have risen again. Our final headline figures for this year are therefore as follows:

69% of pupils achieved 5 or more A*-C grades including English and Mathematics

83% of pupils achieved A*-C grades in Mathematics

78% of pupils achieved A*-C grades in English

These are record-breaking results overall for our school and above the national figures reported. We were able to congratulate our pupils at our Annual Presentation Evening last week and it was wonderful so many of the year group joined us with their families for this celebration of their success. There is no doubt that these results will serve our pupils well in whatever choices they make for their future. It also underlines our commitment as a staff to support them and do all we can to ensure their progress and achievement.

We hope that with such strong GCSE results and our last Ofsted inspection judging us to be a 'Good' school overall that parents will continue to see us as the right choice for their children now and in the future. Do spread the word!

Diary Dates for December:

Thursday 11th December: Celebration of Christmas Concert 7.00pm (see below)

Friday 12th December: Year 11 Monitoring Data and Reports published to parents

Friday 12th December: Non Uniform Day for 'Save the Children' charity

Monday 15th December: Year 11 Parents' Evening 4.30pm – 7.30pm

Tuesday 16th December: Parents' Coffee Morning 9.15 – 10.00am

Thursday 18th December: Years 7, 9 and 10 Monitoring Data published to parents

Thursday 18th December: Whole School PSHE Day (see below)

Friday 19th December: Last day of term (see below)

Our **Celebration of Christmas Concert** is taking place on **Thursday 11th December at St Peter's Church in Stockbridge at 7.00pm** (doors open 6.30pm). Preparations and rehearsals are already well underway and we do hope you can join us for this special occasion.

My next **Parents' Coffee Morning** is on **Tuesday 16th December at 9.15am**. At our last gathering our discussion included the GCSE results, home learning timetables and proposed curriculum changes currently under discussion. I extend a warm welcome to all parents to join me for this informal opportunity to meet over a cup of coffee.

At the end of term pupils in all year groups will be involved in a number of exciting activities for the last two days. **Thursday 18th December** is our whole school **PSHE Day** with each year group covering a different theme as listed below. Parents of pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 have received letters outlining the arrangements for the day and what pupils should wear for their activities. Years 7 and 8 pupils should attend in normal full school uniform. If you would like to find out more about the activities your child is involved in please contact their Year Co-ordinator or Mrs Osborne (Head of PSHE).

Year 7: Cultural Awareness: Africa

Year 8: Team Working

Year 9: 'Change for a Tenner'

Year 10: Recruitment Consultancy Seminar

Year 11: Millinery Magic

On **Friday 19th December**, the last day of term, it is normal lessons up until at least break time. Pupils who have reached the target set for achievement points and attendance this term will then be able to choose from a number of activities in school for the remainder of the day. Parents of Year 10 and 11 pupils have already received letters outlining the trips their child can choose from if they also have reached the target set for achievement points and attendance this term. All pupils do not need to wear school uniform for this day but should ensure their choice of clothing is appropriate for the activities.

Staff Information:

We are very sad to be losing Mr McDaid (Head of Computing) at the end of this term and wish him well for the future.

I am very pleased to confirm that Mrs Gibbs has returned to our school as SENCo and Mr Willcox will be starting with us as Head of Computing from January. We are therefore fully staffed at this time.

Test Valley School PTA:

Our first car boot sale was organised by the PTA in September. We had a good turnout of sellers and raised over £340 towards school funds. Future events are already

being planned and include a fashion show next term, more details on this will follow shortly.

The PTA has recently funded the purchase of a 3D printer for the Design Technology department and we are all looking forward to how this will enhance the delivery of the curriculum and the work pupils can produce in this subject area. It is a fantastic resource for the department and we are very grateful to the PTA for their hard work to raise the funds for its purchase.

A letter from the PTA is included at the end of this letter outlining the 'PTA 100 Club' for 2015.

Charity Fundraising:

The Year 11 Charity Committee spearheaded our recent collection of shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child Project co-ordinated by the Andover Rotary Club. This project involved staff and pupils filling shoeboxes with a range of gifts to be distributed to children across the world if they are likely to receive very little at Christmas. 70 boxes were collected in total this year.

The Charity Committee have asked for a **non-uniform day on Friday 12th December** to support Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day. I am very happy to support their request with pupils asked to bring a contribution of at least £1.00 to donate if they wish to participate. They may choose to wear a Christmas jumper or outfit but do need to ensure their non-uniform choice is appropriate for a normal school day. Pupils are also reminded not to bring into school any cans of glitter, colour hairspray or similar products on this day or in the final weeks of term.

Plans are also now underway for the refurbishment of the school farm with funds raised from our StockFest event in the Summer Term. The animals are all very excited about this development!

Parents collecting pupils by car at 3.20pm:

Our priority at the end of the school day is to ensure pupils are able to leave school safely and for the majority this includes boarding their buses in the bus bays. The busiest time in bus bays is undoubtedly from 3.20pm until 3.35pm and on occasions may mean a number of buses are waiting. We appreciate this can cause congestion but we would ask for your patience when waiting to exit through the bus bays, ideally delaying this until after 3.35pm.

Recently there have been some occasions when car drivers have chosen to drive through bus bays on the wrong side of the road rather than wait. I would politely remind you that this area is a public highway and not part of the school site. My

primary concern is also that pupils crossing the road will not be expecting cars to be coming on the wrong side of the road and may step out.

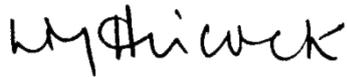
I would also ask parents not to wait or block in cars in our bottom staff car park at these busy times at the start and end of each school day. I realise that access and parking for cars is not easy around the school with so many buses but ask for your support to ensure our pupils' safety and avoid a potential accident.

Autumn Term Newsletter:

Our Autumn newsletter will be published in the last week of term and I do invite you to view this on our website. Paper copies are also available from our reception and Pupil Services. The newsletter is a lovely celebration of the many activities, events and opportunities our pupils and staff have taken part in over this term.

Finally, I send you best wishes for this time of year. Our Spring Term starts on **Monday 5th January at 8.50am** for all pupils.

Yours sincerely



L Hiscock (Miss)
Headteacher

Test Valley School PTA 100 Club

Dear Parents

December 2014

Thank you to all parents, friends and family who took part in last year's PTA 100 Club, it was a great second year for the club and we look forward to it doubling in size this year.

For those of you who are not familiar with our 100 club, it is a monthly draw where 3 numbers are drawn to win a cash prize. The more members the bigger the prizes. We give 50% of the club subscriptions out in monthly prizes and 50% is used towards the next PTA project. This year with the proceeds of The 100 Club, the Car Boot sale, raffles and Stockfest we were able to purchase a 3D printer for the Design Technology department, support several other departments with additional resources and also make a much needed contribution towards our provision for the Goats and Chickens!

We are sending out this letter to all parents inviting them to join our PTA 100 Club, 2015. This is a fun way to support Test Valley PTA. The PTA section of the school website has contact details for the Chair, Denice Wareham or email direct at: pta@testvalley.hants.sch.uk We also publish our prize winners on the website monthly!

We have made the decision to make the membership for the club an annual subscription only, where you will pay your £12 in January for 12 draws. You will no longer be able to become a member or purchase additional numbers throughout the year. So, this is your only opportunity to take part in next year's 100 Club!

We are hoping this will encourage all to sign up straight away giving us a bigger prize fund for the coming year and making the administration of the club easier. Please support us, the more members we have the bigger the prize pot!

If you or a family member or friend would like to be part of our 100 club, please complete the slip below and return it to the school office enclosing your cheque for £12 per number. All draw numbers will be allocated on receipt of payment.

(Draw numbers will be sent to the address of the associated pupil in the name of the member)

The closing date for the 2015 draw applications is Wednesday 7th January.

Your support is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Test Valley PTA



.....
Test Valley PTA 100 Club, 2015

I would like to become a member of the Test Valley School PTA 100 Club, 2015

I enclose a cheque for £..... I would like to buy draw number(s)

Please make your cheque payable to **Test Valley School PTA.**

Member Name:.....Associated Pupil name.....

Signed..... Tel:.....

Please return to school reception for the attention of Test Valley School PTA 100 Club

(Closing date is Wednesday 7th January 2015)

Test Valley School PTA 100 Club

Terms and conditions of play:

1. The cost of each draw is £1 payable on an annual basis of £12.00 for 12 draws in advance
2. Each draw is held monthly
3. Winners will be notified by post and then published on our website under the PTA section
4. The prize fund is set at the beginning of the year according to the number of members. 50% of all takings from the 100 Club is allocated to the prize fund and 50% is donated to the PTA
5. No refunds can be given
6. It is your responsibility to update the PTA with any change of address or email **(details below)*
7. Winners' cheques will be made payable to the registered member of the winning numbers only
8. You can only join the '100 Club' at the beginning of the year (deadline January 7th 2015)
9. You can buy as many numbers as you like.

*Address or email changes should be emailed to archerl@testvalley.hants.sch.uk
or by post to: Test Valley School, Roman Road, Stockbridge, SO20 6HA
FAO Mrs L Archer – PTA 100 Club

Chair of the PTA: Mrs Denice Wareham – pta@testvalley.hants.sch.uk

Treasurer of the PTA: Mrs Sally Biles

GOOD LUCK!

Test Valley School PTA
