

## Headteacher's Letter

March 2017

Dear Parent

### Diary dates:

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Year 9 Examinations end Year 9 Parents' Information Evening - Pathways Main Hall 6.15 -8.00pm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Year 10 Pupil Monitoring Data published to parents
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2017	Year 7 Pupil Monitoring Data published to parents
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Year 11 Pupil Monitoring Data published to parents
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Year 9 Option Review Week
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Year 9 Pupil Monitoring data and Reports published to parents
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2017	Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening Main Hall 4.30-7.30pm
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Year 9 Pathways Form deadline Year 8 Pupil Monitoring Data published to parents Headteacher's coffee morning 9.15am – 10am
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	<b>Final day of Spring Term</b>
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	<b>Summer Term commences for pupils</b>

### Ofsted inspection: Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup>

As you are aware we were notified on Monday February 13<sup>th</sup> that we would have an inspection visit the following day. This was a short inspection of one day under the latest Ofsted framework.

My sincere thanks to all parents for your support during this process and to those who were able to complete Ofsted's Parent View survey despite the short turnaround required. We expect to shortly receive notification regarding publication of the formal response from Ofsted on the outcome of this inspection. I will write to you again advising of this and put a copy on our school website.

Inspections are rightly challenging and I extend my thanks to the staff and governors for their hard work and contribution to the process on the day. I would, however, be the first to say that it is important to recognise that it is all the hard work and commitment every day that determines if we are doing well as a school. We therefore hope the outcome will recognise the strengths of our school as much as identifying the next steps to keep moving forward.

## Election of Parent Governors

Thank you to parents who put themselves forward as candidates for our Parent Governor vacancies last half term and all who voted in the subsequent election. Prior to this process being completed an additional vacancy became available and we were able to advise our candidates that we would be appointing three Parent Governors.

I am delighted to confirm the following appointments to our Governing Body after the count of votes with immediate effect:

- Mr John Hannon
- Mr Colin Sinclair
- Mrs Frances Wain

## Financial payments to school

Please note that if you have recently made any payments to us (e.g. for an activity/event/resource for your child) that these may not be banked until 7<sup>th</sup> April due to the end of this financial year coming up.

## Staffing news

We are delighted to welcome back to school Mr Allsopp (Head of Technology) and Mrs Knight (Modern Foreign Languages).

We are also pleased to confirm Ms Boxall, who has been teaching MFL and Mathematics, has now moved across to the Mathematics team full-time. This follows Mr Nwabisi leaving us at half term. We appreciate this is another change of teacher for some Mathematics groups but we are doing all we can to ensure the progress of pupils in Mathematics going forward. As you may be aware it is very difficult to recruit teachers for this subject nationally therefore I am pleased to confirm we are now fully staffed in Mathematics longer term.

I take this opportunity to extend our thanks and best wishes to Mr Nwabisi and also Mr Gardner (who was covering Design Technology).

## Parents' Coffee Morning

At our last coffee morning in February it was lovely to be joined by so many parents again for this informal opportunity to meet. We discussed a number of topics including how we celebrate pupils' success through a variety of opportunities such as the new Key Stage 3 TVS Challenge, the new style termly reports, the new Key Stage 3 A.R.E. assessment system, the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and GCSE curriculum choices, bus bays and the online booking system for parents' evening.

Our next coffee morning is on **Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup> from 9.15am until 10.00am**. It would be lovely if you are able to attend, whether you have come along before or if this would be your first visit, you will be made very welcome.

## Weekly Blog

Our new weekly blog has been running since January and is posted at the start of each week on the school website. Do have a look at this if you have not yet had an opportunity to read more about the lessons, activities and experiences our pupils are involved in as part of school life. A recent blog included our school production 'Wyrd Sisters' in February. We are very proud of how well all the pupils involved did, both on stage and behind the scenes, despite losing their full dress rehearsal because of the Ofsted inspection! My thanks to Mrs Stubbs (Subject Leader for Drama) for all her hard work and the support she received from other staff to ensure this production was such a success.

## Lost Property

We emailed all parents on our email database in January about the large amount of lost property items we have acquired. We also advised that any lost property unclaimed by half term we would be looking to dispose of as unable to store indefinitely. Please could you ensure all of your child's clothes are named so we can return items to their owners as far as possible?

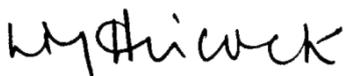
## Second hand uniform available

We do have some items of second hand school uniform available in exchange for a donation to school funds. If interested please contact the school office by email on [office@testvalley.hants.sch.uk](mailto:office@testvalley.hants.sch.uk) with what uniform items you require for your child (including size) and we will check if there is anything suitable we can offer.

## Launch of school postcards

We are always looking for further opportunities to celebrate and reward our pupils for their hard work, effort, achievement or when doing well in a particular subject/activity. This year we introduced the TVS Challenge for Years 7, 8, and 9 pupils and we will shortly be launching a new school postcard. This will enable staff to recognise our pupils' success and progress. Do look out for these possibly starting to come home later this term for you to share with your child and encourage them to keep doing well.

Yours sincerely



**L. Hiscock (Miss)**  
**Headteacher**