

## Headteacher's Letter

24<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Parent

I write to update you on our school news and key dates for the remainder of this term. These are as follows:

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2018   | Year 8 Examinations end<br><b>School closes to pupils for half-term at 3.20pm</b> |
| Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2018   | <b>School re-opens for pupils at 8.50am</b><br>Year 7 Examinations commence       |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2018  | Year 10 Examinations commence   |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2018  | Year 7 Examinations end   |
| Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2018  | GCSE and Year 10 Examinations end   |
| Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2018  | Year 8 pupil monitoring data and reports published to parents                     |
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2018  | Year 10 College Taster Day  |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2018 | Year 9 pupil monitoring data published to parents                                 |
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2018   | Activities Week commences   |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2018  | Year 7 pupil monitoring data and reports published to parents                     |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2018 | KS3 Sports Day<br>Year 10 pupil monitoring data and reports published to parents  |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2018  | <b>Final Day of Summer Term for pupils</b>  |
| Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July       | <b>STAFF INSET: School closed for pupils</b>                                      |

Looking ahead to the new Autumn Term I can confirm:

- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September: Staff Training Day
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September: New Year 7 pupils start at 8.50am
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September: Years 8, 9,10,11 pupils start at 8.50am

I would like to ask that if planning to purchase any new items of school uniform for your child between now and September that you check the items meet our uniform code as detailed on the school website. In particular, with regards to the style of school trousers and skirts accepted. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us before purchasing any items.

### StockFest

This year was the tenth year for this annual celebration of talent across our school community. It was lovely as always to see so many pupils and staff involved, both performing on the stage and behind the scenes. Our thanks also go to our P.T.A and friends of the school whose support make this possible. A full write up of StockFest can be found on our weekly blog on the school website and is certainly worth a read. We look forward to the eleventh StockFest next year! I am delighted to report that over £1000 was raised and the total from the entry gates will be going towards our swimming pool fund this year. The funds from the stalls organised by Years 7 and 8 pupils will be donated to a charity to be chosen by our Pupil Council.

— HEADTEACHER • MISS L HISCOCK B.ED (HONS) —

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## Looking forward

The senior team, governing body and staff are already underway planning for next year. We are committed to keep taking our school forward and working hard to secure improvement. Our key priority remains ensuring our pupils are supported and challenged to succeed and achieve at high levels. Our ongoing review includes how we do this through the curriculum we offer and the support we can put around this to ensure we are all (staff and pupils) committed to high quality learning taking place in lessons. As part of this we are changing the school day next year, moving to six lessons of fifty minutes each. This is to ensure a good pace of learning to be set in each lesson with focused objectives to achieve. We will also operate a one-week timetable. It will not change the start and finish times of 8.50am and 3.20pm. The new times will be:

8.50am - 9.10am: Registration  
9.10am - 10.00am: Period One  
10.00 - 10.50am: Period Two  
10.50am - 11.10am: Break  
11.10am - 12.00: Period Three  
12.00 - 12.50pm: Period Four  
12.50pm - 1.35pm: Lunch  
1.35pm - 2.30pm: Period Five (to include registration)  
2.30pm - 3.20pm: Period Six

## General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

You will no doubt be aware of the above coming into effect from 25<sup>th</sup> May. We will shortly be posting further information on our school website. This will include a copy of our revised Privacy Notice explaining how we use any personal information collected. I would assure you that the key reason we collect and hold pupil information is to support pupil learning, provide appropriate support and to be able to monitor and report on pupil progress. We are very aware of the need to keep secure any personal data provided and ensure we meet the regulatory requirements.

## Staffing News

I am pleased to confirm that after half term we will be joined by Ms Arding, an experienced Science teacher joining us as Second in Department. Later in July we will also be joined by another new Science teacher as Mr Darragh will not be returning. We will also be joined by a new Mathematics teacher at this time prior to Mrs Luckham starting her maternity leave. We have recently welcomed Mr Dunn (Senior Science Technician) and Mrs James (Afternoon Receptionist). Finally, Mrs Berry (English) continues to be on long-term absence and we send her our best wishes.

## Opportunities to train to teach

The need for good teachers in schools is as great as ever. If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a secondary school teacher please look at the information on our website about the two training partnerships our school is working in called SUPA Salisbury and the Rural Schools Alliance. I am also happy to have an informal chat about the training opportunities available if you would like to contact me.

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— HEADTEACHER • MISS L HISCOCK B.ED (HONS) —

## Free school meals

The criteria for the above has recently changed and we have revised the information on our school website. I would encourage you to consider applying if you think your child may be eligible and you have not previously applied for this support. Your child may not wish to take up the free school lunch this includes but it does mean the school will receive additional funding we can put towards your child's education. Should you wish to discuss or have any queries about the application process please do not hesitate to contact us.

## Breakfast Club

We introduced a breakfast club service in our school canteen for a trial period this time last year. This was requested by our Pupil Council and we were delighted to support this. As the take up of this service by pupils before school has been very low overall we are not planning to continue this beyond the GCSE examination period. My thanks to the school canteen staff for trialling this.

## Trips and visits Calendar 2017 – 2018

This year we published the above calendar to parents. This was in response to requests from parents to give advance information on the known trips and visits planned for the year and anticipated costs. We hope you have found this useful for your planning and I would value any feedback from you before we go ahead again for next year.

## Year 5 Taster Day Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June / Year 6 Induction Day Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July

We are looking forward to the above events. This Year 5 Taster Day is an opportunity for prospective pupils currently in Year 5 to join us for the day. Further details can be found on our website, including how parents can book a place, although these are already being booked up quickly. The Year 6 Induction Day is for all pupils currently in Year 6 who have been offered a place at our school in September.

We look forward to the final half term with all pupils returning to school on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 8.50am.**

Yours Sincerely

**Miss L Hiscock**  
**Headteacher**