

WH/RNM/JULYLET

19 July 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

First, might I start by thanking you all for your support for our school over this last year?

THE LAST DAY OF TERM

Friday 22nd July, will begin at the usual time, but the buses home will arrive at 12.30. Young people who are entitled to a free school meal, will be able to eat this at break. As I described in my letter of 23rd June the day is a non uniform day. This is not with the traditional collection of £1, but in return for collecting any unwanted 'polos' or 'sweatshirts' for re-cycling whilst raising money for Charity. I am very proud of the young people in Year 8 who have organized this great idea.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Years 12 and 13 AS and A2 results will be in school on Thursday 18th August and can be collected from the Sixth Form block from 8.30 a.m. for Year 13 and 10.00 a.m. for Year 12. The Year 11 GCSE results will be in school on Thursday 25th August and young people will be able to collect them from the Sixth Form block from 10.00 a.m. On both these occasions we will have a team of staff in school to provide information, advice and guidance. Other year groups will receive their results by post.

FAREWELLS

It is always the case at this time that we have the task of bidding farewell to valued colleagues. In particular we say farewell to three people who have each contributed over thirty years service to our School Community.

Mr Bryant is currently our longest serving colleague, with thirty-five years commitment to our school. He is a really skilled man, not only as a Design and Technology teacher, but he is also a gifted musician and he even built the car that he drives to school. His length of service to our school is admirable, and he has contributed selflessly to us throughout his time with us.

Mrs Knill has inspired generation after generation of young people in Drama. She has taught right across the school for 32 years, but it is her annual school performances where her skills and impact have been most evident. Every year she creates magic in our Main Hall, perhaps most memorably with 'Return to the Forbidden Planet', 'The Commitments' or 'Dark of Moon'. There have been over 30 generations of children who left our school with a love of theatre and the arts because of her; she has a unique gift.

Mrs Tatlow retires also after 32 years with our school. She joined us as a Maths teacher, was then promoted to lead the team, before taking on a whole school leadership role as Assistant Headteacher; a role in which she has written the last 18 school timetables. Over the years all her Maths classes appreciate the work and support that Mrs Tatlow gave to every individual. Not many will know of the care and detail that she puts into writing our school timetables, but each one has been underpinned by her strong personal principle that it is her responsibility to do everything possible to make sure that every child in our school has every opportunity to be successful.

NEW STAFF

We have again recruited well, and will bring some talented new graduate staff into the English, Maths, Economics and ICT teams.

GOVERNORS

Mr David Wallis was elected Parent Governor in the recent ballot, and attended his first meeting last Thursday. At this meeting Mr Stephen Hall was re-elected Chair, and Mr Chris Corkhill to the role of Vice Chair. Mr Chris Towing stood down from his role as Community Governor after five years of selfless service, not least in his role as Child Protection Governor where he made a particularly effective contribution. Governors appointed Mr David Camidge as a new Community Governor, and with the recent addition of Mr Alan Key as a Foundation Governor we start the new year with an even stronger Governing Body.

PE KIT FOR SEPTEMBER

Our PE kit for Years 8 to 11 is unchanged. You will see a new PE kit advertised at APC, on our web site and in the school foyer. The new PE kit reflects the move of the school into our House system, but it is for the incoming Year 7 only. Only when Years 8 to 11 have out grown their current PE kit will they replace their current kit with the new House branded one.

WORLD CHALLENGE

We have a group of young people in Africa right now making their way from Kenya to Tanzania. We have another group going out shortly, who will complete the same journey in the opposite direction. I am really grateful to Mr Young, Miss Blakey, Miss Sweeney, Mr Brennan and Miss Elias who have given up their August to make these opportunities happen for our young people.

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

We are really pleased for Mrs Craig who won 2nd place at the Community Education Awards for 2011, in the category 'outstanding PHSE Teacher'. She was the only secondary school teacher to reach the finals, which were supported by the Police Community Clubs of Great Britain. It is an appropriate and proper national accolade, presented by Esther Rantzen, for a colleague who is understandably held in high regard by all our school community.

NOTABLE JULY EVENTS

Our staff have not been winding down in these last few weeks of term, quite the opposite is true. It has been brilliant to see their commitment to enriching the lives of our all in our school community. We have had all of Year 7 taking part in the 'Mini Olympics' at the John Charles Stadium, a visit from a Japanese silk painter, and a visit to both the set of Waterloo Road and the Wimbledon Tennis Championships. Mr Hugill has overseen another balloon launch to photograph space, and the Art Team have held a fantastic summer exhibition. As a part of developing "Enterprise" we have had young leaders in local schools running the 'Smoothy Challenge' and our Engineers entered the Schools' Robot Wars competition with 'Big Dave', who was made completely out of reclaimed materials from a tip. Year 8 have had a 'taster' day of new courses for Year 9, while some Year 10 have had similar opportunities to try some Sixth Form courses. Our Musicians continue to impress with a Summer Solstice event, together with further success in the ABRSM exams. Weather permitting the term will still include Sports Days and further House competition.

CALENDAR DATES

A full school calendar for our parents and carers will be published at the start of the new term. Our term dates for next year remain those published on the City of Leeds web site, but school will be closed for staff training on:


Monday 5 September 2011
Tuesday 4 October 2011
Friday 30 March 2012
Friday 19 June 2012
Monday 23 July 2012

THE START OF TERM

The new term, with our new uniform and new Sixth Form Dress code, will start on Tuesday 6th September at 8.45 for Years 7 to 13.

I hope the summer is a great one for all of you, your families and our staff. We look forward to celebrating with many of you during the exam results days; our school has every reason to look forward to 2011-2012 with great optimism, and your partnership with us a key platform on which that success is built.

Yours faithfully



CHRISTOPHER WALSH
Headteacher