

21 July 2016

Clifford Moor Road  
Boston Spa  
West Yorkshire  
LS23 6RW

Dear Parent/Carer

This is the time of year when I write my end of year letter to our school community. I thought it would be helpful, as a part of our welcome to new families, if I included all new families in this letter, which includes some reminders about standards and expectations as well as key diary dates.

I very much look forward to working in partnership with you over these next years.

### **EXAM RESULTS 2016**

Our examination candidates have worked hard, and we look forward to celebrating their success in August.

All Sixth Form results will be available on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August. A2 results will be ready for collection from 8.30 a.m. and AS results from 9.30 a.m. This is always an exciting day as those hard earned university places are confirmed. Year 11 GCSE results will be available on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August in the Sixth Form block from 8.30 a.m. GCSE results for Years 9 and 10 will be posted on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August to arrive at home on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **JOINING OUR SIXTH FORM**

DfE data continues to show that our Sixth Form remains one of the highest achieving in Leeds and in the wider locality so we are expecting a large cohort of Year 11 to return to us.

Mrs Green will be available throughout Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August to advise Year 11 on subject choices. On either the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> September all returning students will have an enrolment appointment to confirm their courses and timetables. An individual letter will be distributed on results day confirming the time of their appointment; if students are away and unable to collect the letter, it will be posted home. For those returning to our Sixth Form Mrs Green is willing to provide additional support via [email](#) between Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August and Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September.

### **UNIFORM**

Thank you for your support in maintaining standards and expectations for uniform; this is important to us. Our uniform expectations remain as published on our [website](#); as many families will be buying items over the summer, I thought a few reminders would be helpful.

Our guidance for trousers, shoes and skirts is unchanged. We will continue to prohibit branded shoes, such as those by Kickers, Vans, Converse and Nike; these are not appropriate for school. Skirts should be at least knee length. Some suppliers, not supported by school, sell shorter skirts in our tartan suggesting that they meet our uniform guidance. We do not direct families to one exclusive uniform supplier, but if the skirt is not knee length, it is not suitable for school.



As regards hairstyles and piercings our standards have not changed, we will not allow extreme hairstyles; we recognise that some teenagers like to dye their hair, and have no problem with this as long as the dyed hair remains a natural hair colour. This remains our expectation for a full head colour, highlights or a dip dyeing. For piercings a sleeper or stud can be worn in each ear lobe but any other piercing has to be free of jewellery during the school day. We enforce this irrespective of whether the piercing is long established or relatively new.

### **HOMEWORK AND BEHAVIOUR**

Homework is a very important part of our strategy to achieve good outcomes for our young people. We have a range of support available for those who find homework a challenge and these will all stay in place. Where homework is not done we will continue to have SLT detention during lunchtime. For the small number of young people for whom this detention becomes a habit or a regular routine, these lunchtime detentions will be moved to after school. We will write to you if this change is likely to start affecting your daughter or son.

The climate for learning in school is good and behaviour standards are maintained. On rare occasions it is necessary to remove a young person from a lesson to protect the progress of all the others in the class. This is a very serious matter, so in these circumstances the sanction will be increased to the loss of their break, lunchtime and an after school detention. Please make sure that your daughter or son understands this change. Our intention in making this change is to further protect the high standards, expectations and achievement of the whole school community, where the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.

Both these changes involve after school detentions, which I know can be inconvenient for families. If you do not wish your son or daughter to be subject to an after school detention, I ask that you make sure that they understand our raised expectations and adapt their choices accordingly.

### **STAFF CHANGES**

We bid farewell on Friday to three colleagues with remarkable years of loyalty and service to our school. Miss Catchpole, a stalwart of our Maths team, joins the staff at York University having started with us in 1985. Mrs Blackley retires, after joining our school in 1987; she is held in great respect and affection by all who have worked with her. Mrs Smallwood retires after 43 years with us. Her length of service embraces the whole history of our school; she was the second person to be appointed to the staff and the first appointment made by the first Headteacher.

Mrs Rooney leaves us to take up a promoted post as Principal of De Warenne Academy in Doncaster. Mrs Rooney has been an exceptional colleague to work with, and this promotion is thoroughly well deserved; we are all excited for her.

We have also celebrated with other teaching staff who have secured promotions, Mr G Atkinson (Norton College), Mr Wani (David Young Academy), Miss Hawkyard (Immanuel Academy), Mrs Reedman (Lawnswood School) and Mrs Bolton (David Young Academy), while Miss Meadows leaves us to teach in Singapore. We value all that these teachers have brought to our school, and wish them every success in their new schools.

We have made some excellent appointments to replace these colleagues. Mrs Westerman has been appointed by Governors as acting Deputy Headteacher, before we place a national advertisement later in the year. They have also promoted Mr D Atkinson and Mr Brennan to work alongside her. Mr Cook has been promoted to lead Key Stage 4, taking over from Mrs Blackley. In addition we have made some exciting external teaching appointments, who I will introduce you to in the first blog of next year.

### **ASTHMA CARE**

National data shows that every September there is a peak in hospital admissions for children with asthma. The cause of this is not clear, however it is believed that after the long school break the return to school exposes those with asthma to changed environmental factors that can trigger an attack. If young people with asthma return to school with their lungs in the best possible condition this may be prevented.

If your daughter or son has asthma, we would encourage you to attend your GP practice for an asthma review if they have not had one within the last year. This gives the nurse or doctor the opportunity to review medication and inhaler technique and to update the personal asthma action plan. We would be pleased to receive a copy of the action plan in school in September; it will give our staff the information required to provide the correct support. There is further guidance on the NHS Leeds [website](#).

### **SCHOOL CALENDAR**

The new school year will start at 8.45 on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September for all year groups, although the staff are returning on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September. Our Open Evening is on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September; we will be pleased to welcome all visitors. The full calendar for next year is published on our [website](#).

We have had a good year, and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our great staff for all that they have contributed to our school. Thank you again for your support and I hope that the summer break treats you and your family well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Walsh', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CHRISTOPHER WALSH  
Headteacher