

September 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to a new term and a new school year; I hope that you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Best ever results!

I am delighted to report that last year's Year 11 students again broke all records with their GCSE results. A number of checks are underway, however, we expect that nearly 50% will have achieved 5 or more A*-C grades including English and Maths with around 62% achieving 5 or more A*-C grades. This represents yet another improvement from last year and reflects the immense hard work and enthusiasm of students and staff and the support of parents. These results are in line with the top level national projections for the school.

We are confidently expecting results next year to again show a further improvement with targets of 70% achieving 5+A*-C grades and 52% achieving this including English and Maths.

As you will appreciate the GCSE results mark the end of five years of work; the progress students make each year is vital to their long term success. Your continued support with this process is greatly appreciated.

Uniform

Many thanks to all parents who have again ensured their child is correctly dressed and looking really smart in their uniform. We do expect all students to wear the correct uniform and will contact you directly if there is a problem. In some cases it may be necessary to send students home to change after contacting you first. I hope that by working together we can maintain the highest standards of dress.

Term dates and holidays

Please find enclosed a copy of our diary of events for the year which includes dates for this year as I know many of you need to book holidays early with your employers. Please could I remind all parents/carers that holidays need to be taken outside of term times in order to avoid any disruption to their child's education. Permission to take a student out of school will only be given in exceptional circumstances and will not be given to any student involved in external examinations. I am most grateful for your support over this important matter.

Parent Focus Group

The dates for this years Parents' Focus Group meetings are included in the Diary of Events. These meetings are for any parent /carer to attend who would like the opportunity to discuss aspects of the school's development in an informal setting. Meetings are held in the Library from 6 to 7 pm. Please join us if you can.

Supermarket Vouchers

As we enter the supermarket voucher season again I would like to thank all parents/carers for supporting the School in the past. We have managed to buy a range of IT /sports equipment and library books. Please do continue to collect this year, we welcome all contributions.

Swine Flu

As you will be aware the Government are expecting that the number of outbreaks of Swine Flu may increase as we head for the winter. The latest advice we have is for parents/carers to act as they normally would for a sick child, keeping their child at home and consulting with their GP or the help lines as appropriate. Further information is available via the following link. www.pandemicflu.direct.gov.uk. It seems that schools will be most unlikely to close in the future even if they have an outbreak; the only reason for a closure would be if large numbers of staff became unwell.

I am looking forward to a most productive and rewarding year.

Yours sincerely

K R Deadman
Headteacher