

8<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Dear Parents and Student

Thank you for your help and support over the last term as we continue to work together to make good progress at school.

I am delighted to inform you that our progress has been recognised by Ofsted and the SSAT (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) this term. Ofsted said that the school is 'making good progress in every area' 'teaching and learning have improved' and 'behaviour is always at least satisfactory and often good'. I recently travelled to London to receive an award from SSAT, the award is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most improved school in England. I am also pleased to tell you that our school attendance has risen from 88% at this time last year to 92.2% now.

This term has been busy as usual with many school trips and a fantastic school production of 'Grease'. There are also school trips over Easter and school will be open from 11<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> April over the Easter holidays for revision.

#### **Arrangements for the Easter holiday**

School breaks up for Easter at 3pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April and recommences on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May are bank holidays.

I am concerned about the impact of this lack of continuity on student achievement and results.

Please make sure your child attends school every school day. There will be 'blitz' days where our attendance team will visit non attendees at home and parents of students who do not attend may be fined.

There will be a series of rewards in place, as usual, for students who attend and behave. You should be aware that statistics show that students with only 90% attendance (compared to 100%) achieve 1 grade lower in all their exams.

#### **Exams**

The year 11 (and some year 10) exam season starts very soon and I would encourage all students to use the Easter break to attend revision sessions at school and to start revision for exams.

#### **Uniform**

I would be most grateful if you would ensure over the Easter holidays, that your child has all necessary uniform ready for the start of the school term. Some students have chosen a new design for a summer shirt, which students will be able to wear, if they wish, after the May half term. I will forward further details of this to you once we receive them from our supplier.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Easter and to thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ms C Ridgway BSc NPQH  
Headteacher