

July 2009

Dear Parent/Carer

As we start the summer holidays, I wanted to thank you for your support over the last academic year and to draw your attention to a few things at the beginning of the holidays so that you can prepare yourself and your child for the new year.

Year 7 and 11 pupils return on Friday 4th September. Year 7 pupils come for a full day which starts at 8.45 am and finishes at 3 pm. Year 11 pupils come for individual Review Day appointments with you and their tutor (you will have already received an appointment time). Please make sure that you can attend this very important meeting when targets will be set and a full discussion held with you to ensure that your child achieves the best possible results next summer. Years 8, 9 & 10 return on Monday 7th September at 8.45am. Please make sure that your child attends every day on time throughout the year. **“Attendance Matters - Every Lesson Counts”**.

I am enclosing a copy of our leaflet “Maintaining High Standards & Raising Aspirations”. Please read this carefully and take the time to go through it with your child. Please make sure that when you are buying new uniform for September that you adhere to the guidance and that you are not persuaded to differ from it by your child! All pupils have been told that they will be sent home on the first day of next term if they arrive at school in incorrect uniform. I would ask you to support us in this and not allow your child to buy any item which is not the correct one for school. In particular, please check their shoes, which should be sensible black **shoes** and not trainers or canvas pumps; again do not be persuaded by your child or the shop assistant that shoes of this type are suitable for school. I do believe that correct and smart uniform does display a school which is disciplined and well ordered.

We have made some changes to our Homework Policy for September. This has come about from the recommendations made by a working party of pupils, parents and staff during this year. The “Homework Policy” has been renamed the “Home Learning Policy” to reflect the changes and the policy can be found on the school website along with some of the other policies relevant to you as parents. One of the changes to homework is that pupils in Years 7,8 & 9 will be able to access their Home Learning via “Fronter” which is a website that all pupils can log onto using their own password. Please ask your child, when we return to school, to show you what is available.

We are trying to make the school website our main contact with you and whilst we will still communicate with you by post we will always try to keep the website up to date with relevant information for you to access. From September all letters which are sent home, such as letters for Educational Visits and the permission slips, will be available on the website.

I hope that you and your family have a very enjoyable summer, with some good weather. I will be writing to you again at the end of the holidays with what I hope will be

some very good news about this year's results and I will also be sending a copy of the Home School Agreement which I will be asking you to sign and return to school on our first day back.

As always, young people who achieve the best are those who are supported in their school life by their parents and those who care for them. These parents and carers ensure that they come to school on time every day, in their correct school uniform with the necessary equipment and are encouraged to behave well. I know I can rely on you to do this for your child.

Yours sincerely

Gillian W Fennel
Headteacher