

19th July 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we approach the end of this academic year, I am delighted to reflect on the remarkable journey we have undertaken together. Having returned to my role as headteacher seven months ago, I have witnessed an incredible transformation, and a tremendous amount of effort put into revitalising and advancing our school. I am proud to say that we are now in a much stronger position, and the future looks bright, with lots of plans and initiatives on their way for the new academic year. As we move forward, I am eager to share our progress with you. In September, we will be publishing an interim school report to update you on the impactful work we have been doing and the positive changes it is bringing to our school community.

It has been an incredibly busy half-term, filled with a multitude of celebrated events across the school. From musical extravaganzas and the Year 11 prom to the much-anticipated return of the Summer Fair, we have made the most of this time. These events complement the diligent work happening in the classroom, where significant efforts have been made to redefine our curriculum. This includes the introduction of a brand-new, fully resourced Personal Development curriculum starting in September. If you haven't already, please join our Facebook page where we celebrate the children's work and achievements and share pictures of our school events.

As we approach the summer holidays, please remind your child about the importance of staying safe during the break. This week in Personal Development, pupils were educated on the dangers associated with quarries, railways, open water swimming, and derelict buildings. Our priority is for everyone to return safely in September, so please encourage them to think twice before making any risky decisions.

Derbyshire Catering Services and School Meals from September

Derbyshire Catering has reviewed the cost of school meals from September 2024. The cost of a meal deal will now increase to £3.55, this covers a main meal with a side of veg/salad, bottle of water and a pudding. For £3.30, you can get a main meal with a side of veg/salad and a pudding.

Other foods and options are available for purchase outside of the meal deal. We had hoped to receive an updated list of costs from Derbyshire before the school holidays, but it looks like this won't be available until September.

Pupil Progress Reports

All parents have been emailed their children's latest progress reports. Due to ongoing issues with the VLE, we have opted to send these reports via email. As previously mentioned, we are planning to introduce a new Arbor App in the Advent Term, which will streamline the process of sharing important information about your child.

Safeguarding – The Rec by Heath Grove

We are increasingly concerned about reports of anti-social behaviour taking place around this area. Working with community partners and the police, we are hearing about increased concerns around drugs and the risk of children being exploited by out of area gangs (county lines).



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If parents see or hear anything, I urge you to contact the police on 101 to report your concerns over the summer break. We need to keep our children safe and ensure that those wishing to exploit children are kept well away.

Year 10

Pupils received their mock exam results today. As always, some will be pleased, while others may feel disappointed. Regardless of the outcome, when pupils return in September, the expectations will be higher, with a renewed focus on achieving their full potential and preparing thoroughly for the upcoming exams.

This week, 20 chosen prefects were interviewed for student leadership roles, and I was truly humbled by the experience. What a phenomenal group of pupils—talented, caring, and selfless young men and women, showcasing the very best of themselves, their families, and our school. The decision for Mrs Scampion and myself was extremely difficult, but taking into account their applications, interviews and references from staff, the following pupils were successful:

Head Boy: Archie Duffy

Head Girl: Daisy Baxter

Senior Prefects: Amy McKnight, Caitlin Whibberley, Jessica Goodwin

Congratulations to these pupils, and indeed to all those who put themselves forward. We are incredibly proud of you!

Derbyshire County Council Household Support Fund

Codes should have now been sent to families who qualify. If you are still waiting, or if you are experiencing any issues in redeeming your voucher, please contact the school before we close on Tuesday.

End of Year Arrangements

School will close at 12:15pm on Tuesday 23rd July. Pupils will have an extended 'brunch' break where a variety of foods will be available for purchase.

September Arrangements

Year 7 pupils will start on Friday, 6th September, at 8:50am. All other pupils will return to school on Monday, 9th September, at the usual time. We kindly ask all parents and carers to familiarise themselves with our uniform expectations for the new term. Miss Pimblett will be sending out another letter regarding this before we break up on Tuesday.

Thank you sincerely for your continued support. Have a wonderful summer!



Mr Redfern
Headteacher



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