

Happy Easter

A very Happy Easter to you all. We have started the summer term in glorious sunshine which seems most appropriate for this time in the Church's year. I do hope that you all enjoyed the Easter break and that the students have returned refreshed for the busy term ahead.

This half term is very short which means that we are into examinations very quickly. Year 9 will have their SATs the week after next – we are still doing these tests even though they are optional this year – and our Sixth Form students will be sitting their examinations starting next month too. For Year 11 we have only a few weeks left until the GCSEs start in earnest and we have been doing all we can to support them in order to improve our results on last year's. Over the Easter holiday several subjects ran revision classes and these were very much appreciated by the students who attended them. We have started some individual tuition, part of a new government initiative, with a few students and we have further revision sessions planned over the next few weeks. It can also be the time when some students start to realise how much work needs to be done and become rather daunted by it so we will keep a close eye on them and do what we can to support them.

Both Year 11 and the Sixth Form have proms to look forward to in the next few weeks and we hope that these will offer a chance to relax and unwind before their exams.

Sunny Weather

With the start of the sunny summer weather we are beginning to miss our school field which is not yet ready for use. At the moment some of the students are sitting outside the front of the school during lunchtime and we are monitoring this so we can see what is the best for them but can still be supervised by us. We will discuss this with the school council next week and see what ideas there are for this situation. Next year we will have full access to our field and much more room to spread around on at lunchtime. Now that the tennis courts are set up on the hard play area we have again opened up the all-weather pitch for ball games and that is working well. We have stressed to the students that it is up to them to look after these facilities and with these, and the rest of the new buildings, they are proving a credit to themselves. One visitor this week commented to me that there was a wonderful atmosphere in the school and this was pleasing to hear.

Option Choices

Last term students in Year 9 and Year 11 made choices for subjects they wish to study next year and we are finalising work on these at the moment. We hope to be able to confirm which courses they have been accepted on in the next couple of weeks. We will then be able to start working on next year's timetable.

Uniform

At the start of this term I have been asking the staff to check uniform so that we can maintain our standards. Two issues in particular have arisen which I would like to mention to parents. One concerns blazers which some of the students, mainly girls, seem to prefer to carry rather than wear. I am insisting that they should be wearing their blazers and have pointed out to many that if they are hot they can opt to not wear a jumper or cardigan. The second issue is that a few boys have returned to school with patterns cut into their hair and this is something that we do not allow. We have asked those who have done this to have their hair cut again but it would be better if they did not have it done in the first place. I would appreciate parents' support with this.

School Anniversary

At the end of last term I mentioned that we would be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the school this term. We are planning to do this in the final week of term in July and will provide further details of what is planned as the term progresses. If you have any suggestions please contact the school and we will consider them.

Places in Year 7 for September

We heard last month that all of our places for next year's Year 7 have been offered and that there are over 20 children on the waiting list. We have not yet heard from every child who has been offered a place to say that they are accepting it and are at the stage now where we need to start offering the unclaimed places to those on the waiting list. If you or someone you know has been offered a place but has not yet accepted it please contact the school as soon as possible. It is reassuring that we will be full next year and the number on the waiting list has grown since we have moved into our new buildings.

Sean Hayes

Music Success

Congratulations to Albert Johnson and Katherine Ager in Year 9 for both passing their Piano Grade 1 exam, and Alice Donnelly in Year 10 who passed her Piano Grade 1 exam with a merit. Also Megan Ayling in Year 9 passed her Grade 3 Singing exam, Fiona King passed her Grade 5 Music Theory exam and Esther Beard in Year 11 passed her Grade 4 Saxophone exam. Well done on all your hard work! And many thanks to our great team of peripatetic staff who prepared them for their exams!

Study Leave

In recent years the government has discouraged schools from giving students too much study leave believing that they do not make the best use of this time and that revision in school is more beneficial. This year we are making the following arrangements:

Year 11: lessons continue until half term when students do not have an exam. After half term students should only come into school when they have an exam but we will provide a study room for them if they wish to be in school.

Year 12: in common with the other Sixth Forms in the city, students will not have study leave but may be absent from school for the morning or afternoon prior to an exam. All should attend from 8 June when their A2 courses will begin.

Year 13: lessons continue until half term. After half term students only attend if they have an exam. The Common Room and Study Room will remain available to them.

Parent Champion

In his role as Parent Champion, Father David will be available to see parents on Friday 1st May at 3.30pm. Father David may be contacted by phoning him direct on 01733-562528 ext 5, or you may email him at frdavidallsouls@hotmail.com

Attendance to 3rd April 2009

Year 7 91%	Year 8 92%
Year 9 92%	Year 10 92%
Year 11 92%	

Reminder: our target this year is to achieve 93% attendance.

Dates for the Summer Term

24 April	Year 10 Progress Updates sent home
27 April	Year 7 Exams week
28 April	Year 10 Parents' Evening from 4.30pm

4 May	Bank Holiday – school closed
5-8 May	Year 9 SATs
8 May	Year 11 Prom – in school hall
15 May	Year 9 Progress Updates sent home
15 May	Sixth Form Prom – Holiday Inn

25-29 May **Half Term Holiday** – school closed

1 June	Year 10 Geography Fieldwork
1 June	Years 11 and 13 begin Study Leave
5 June	Year 8 Progress Updates sent home
8 June	A2 lessons begin for Year 12
9 June	Year 8 Parents' Evening from 4.30pm
19 June	Year 7 Progress Updates sent home
23 June	Year 7 Parents' Evening from 4.30pm
25 June	Induction Day for new Year 12
1 July	Induction Day for new Year 7
3 July	Years 10 and 12 Updates sent home
6 July	One World Week
13 July	School Anniversary Week
17 July	Term Ends

20 August	AS and A2 Results published
27 August	GCSE Results published

Term Dates for 2009-2010

Autumn Term

4 September	Staff Training Day – school closed
7 September	Staff Training Day – school closed
8 September	Term Begins
2 October	Staff Training Day – school closed
26-30 October	Half Term Holiday
18 December	Term Ends

Spring Term

4 January 2010	Staff Training Day – school closed
5 January	Term Begins
15-19 February	Half Term Holiday
22 February	Staff Training Day – school closed
26 March	Term Ends

Summer Term

12 April	Term begins
3 May	Bank Holiday – school closed
31 May – 4 June	Half Term Holiday
23 July	Term Ends

Autumn Term 2010 begins 2nd September
