

Our Ref: HTSAletters/BRE/JOD

Date: July 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of another academic year, I would like to thank you for your support. The year has flown by and we are already preparing for September! The last few days of this term will be devoted to a range of special activities and school finishes at the normal time on Wednesday to minimise disruption to parents' working day.

I hope that you will read our latest newsletter. This will give you a real insight into what has been happening in school this term. This accompanying letter really serves to give the usual reminders so that the start of term in September is smooth. On that note, I would like to remind you that students return on **TUESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER**. I am sure you will be ready to send them back and that this date is probably firmly in your mind!

This coming September, we are welcoming over one hundred students into Year 7. This is a big increase in terms of numbers and, although school will be very busy, we are delighted that our popularity continues to rise. Feedback from current and prospective parents suggests that it is our high academic expectations and our strong behaviour systems that make us an increasingly popular choice. We do believe that these routines not only ensure that students make as much progress as possible but also enable them to be happy and settled. Other feedback from parents suggests that our 'strict' standards support at home too. For example, when students know the expectations in terms of uniform, punctuality, attendance and homework they are more likely to conform, reducing the need for parents to become involved. Our new School Prospectus is now available, and you will be able to view this via our school website. Please encourage prospective parents to look at the Prospectus; copies are also available from the school office. Any prospective or current parent is welcome to call in to our school office at any point for an impromptu tour.

As always, the end of the academic year is a time to say thank you and goodbye to staff. This term, we wish the following staff well:

Ms Grant (Head of English) - promotion in a Cheshire East school
Ms Kuzmanoska – personal reasons
Mr Scott – end of contract and moving to a local high school
Mrs Scouler – end of contract and moving to Cheshire West
Miss Halcomb – end of contract
Miss O'Brien

We will be welcoming the following staff from September:

Mrs C Willis – Assistant Headteacher
Miss L Reddaway – Curriculum Leader English
Mr E Ledwards – Maths
Mr A Fuller – Maths/Music
Dr R Foster - Science
Mr M Wren – Science
Mrs N Maginn – Cleaning Assistant
Mrs J Simms – Finance Administrator

We also wish Mrs Needham and Mrs Oakes well as they commence family/maternity leave, and we welcome back Mrs Jennings and Mrs Hunter following the birth of their respective daughters.

I would like to remind all parents/carers that we do have a dedicated school bus. As the weather becomes more variable in the Autumn term, I would recommend that you consider it. The route comes right through Crewe from Leighton and the drivers are excellent. They make contact with parents prior to the start of the year and they do their best to drop students as close to home as possible. This personal service is excellent and highly recommended.

In September, we will look forward to welcoming back all students, complete with full school uniform, a pencil case with the necessary items, and a sensible school bag. Pencil cases should contain basic writing equipment, a ruler and a rubber. Students should also carry a reading book. Maths equipment can be purchased via school. Students who have English as an additional language should have a dual language dictionary. In terms of uniform, the enclosed sheet should give you the relevant information. This is already in the planner that your son/daughter has had this academic year and there are no major changes. The vast majority of students follow the uniform expectations without question. A very, very small minority try to find ways of bending the rules. Please, please support us. We do not want to be having difficult conversations in September when inappropriate clothing items /hairstyles and colours/piercings/tattoos have been paid for. If you are in any doubt, ring school. The school office is manned for the majority of the holidays and advice can be given. However, particular attention should be paid to hair colours and styles (one natural colour: nothing less than a grade 3, no sculptured cuts or lines of any kind), to the limits on piercings (one piercing in the lobe of each ear) and to the fact that tattoos are not permitted. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

As always, please feel free to contact me directly if you would like to discuss any matter. My email address is brette@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk

On behalf of all staff and Governors, I would like to wish you a relaxing summer. I hope that the weather is kind and that you have the opportunity to share some well deserved family time.

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Headteacher
E S Brett

*** Please note:** the term *parent* will be used to denote *parent/carer* throughout the main body of this letter.