

July 2009

Dear Parents and Carers,

SUMMER TERM NEWSLETTER 2009

As the end of a busy and successful school year draws to a close I am very pleased to send you our end of term newsletter.

Ofsted Inspection

The Mathematics Department was the subject of a two day inspection by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors at the beginning of June. I am pleased to report that the overall effectiveness of teaching and learning in Mathematics in the school was judged to be good. As this is a subject inspection, a full report is not published, but details will appear on the Ofsted website at the end of term.

Uniform in Years 7 to 11

I am pleased with the general standard of uniform this year and would like to thank you for the way you are sending the students to school. I look forward to seeing high standards again next year. You will know that we do not allow trainers.

Please note that only proper shoes are allowed from September. Boots or trainer type footwear are not permitted. Students have been informed about the correct footwear. As an alternative, plain black canvas pumps can be worn in the warmer months until October half term and again after the Easter holidays.

The law enables the school to send students home who are not dressed in accordance with school rules. We shall continue to do so if necessary.

School Uniform Code

Girls

- White polo shirt with or without school logo
- Maroon round necked, long sleeved sweatshirt with school logo
- Plain black skirt or trousers (correctly worn)
- Plain black shoes (not high heels or boots)

Boys

- White polo shirt with or without school logo
- Maroon round necked, long sleeved sweatshirt with school logo
- Plain black trousers (correctly worn)
- Plain black shoes

At the meeting in June the Governors decided that only **black** skirts or trousers may be worn. Conventional shirts are not part of our uniform.

Sixth Form students and their parents have been informed separately of the dress code for the Stapenhill Post 16 Centre.

Some financial support is available for parents whose children receive free school meals. Please contact Mr Bayliss at school for further details.

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Student News

The school and Technology department are once again celebrating Chloe's success with food. The judges at the Rotary Young Chef of the Year District final were so impressed with Chloe's food skills and enthusiasm earlier in the year she was invited to assist Celebrity Chef Brian Turner in three demonstrations at the Derbyshire Food Fair at Bolsover Castle in May. A fantastic opportunity for Chloe and a really enjoyable day out for all those who have supported and encouraged her this year.

Foodlab

On June 18th we welcomed the Foodlab company into school as part of our promotion of good health. The road show was presented to each Year 7 form throughout the day. In the practical demonstrations and discussions the truth behind some junk food and fast food ingredients was highlighted with some pupils assisting the demonstrator in creating healthy fast food to reinforce the recommended dietary goals and ways of achieving them,

Foodlab also returned to further promote the healthy eating message on the following Tuesday evening as part of the Family Learning Programme for Y7 pupils and their families. The "Lowdown" road show was looking at ways of reducing salt, sugar and saturated fat in our diet. This time the demonstrator was assisted in making healthy burgers which were sampled and enjoyed by the group.

Art Department – Shobnall Park Mural

Congratulations to all Year 8 and Year 9 students who contributed to the design of the Shobnall Park Mural. Shobnall Parish Council commissioned artist Simon Weston to paint a mural (which is 72 feet long!) that reflects all the different activities and places around Shobnall Park. Simon asked Paulet students to get involved to help him with this huge task. Year 8 and Year 9 students have been designing people, animals and objects as a stencil design to be sprayed onto a background designed by 8P.

During a recent Art Workshop a smaller group of students refined the designs and started making the large scale stencils that will be used in the actual mural. Simon was amazed by the students' designs as were Coral Beresford and Andrew Gale of the Parish Council who were quoted in the Burton Mail recently saying "What the children have created is just incredible and stunning".

Enrolment at the Post-16 Centre

Most potential Sixth Formers in Year 11 have already attended a preliminary interview at the Post-16 Centre to discuss aspirations, entry requirements and possible subject choices at AS level. The vast majority of these students have also attended the first Induction Day for preparing to study at the Stapenhill Post-16 Centre.

All students who have provisionally been offered a place at the Post-16 Centre for September must attend a final interview on the morning of Thursday 27th August (GCSE results day) or the morning of Friday 28th August at the Post-16 Centre with Mrs Deer. This interview will be to confirm subject choices and to ensure that students have met the entrance requirements to study their chosen pathway. **Any student who is unable to attend for an interview on either the 27th or 28th should contact the Centre on 01283 239791 to arrange an alternative date.**

Any students who want to seek advice or apply to the Sixth Form if they have not already done so are welcome also to contact the Centre to arrange an appointment with Mrs Deer. Enrolment to the Post-16 Centre is on Tuesday 8th September. Students must be at the Centre for 8.30 a.m. with their completed enrolment form and the other enrolment requirements.

Cycle Safety

We want to promote the healthy pursuit of cycling to and from schools, but this has to be safe and within the Laws and Regulations outlined in the Highway Code.

There has been a potentially dangerous growing trend of removing the braking mechanism from bikes and stopping using feet only. On one day this term I was shocked to discover 13 cycles without any brakes which students had brought into school.

We ask that students do not bring bicycles to school which fail to meet the safety requirements laid out in The Highway Code. In order to safeguard our students and the general public spot checks will be made and any cycle found to be dangerous will be locked up until collected by a parent. The Highway Code states:

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Make sure that you feel confident of your ability to ride safely on the road. Be sure that

- you choose the right size and type of cycle for comfort and safety
- lights and reflectors are kept clean and in good working order
- tyres are in good condition and inflated to the pressure shown on the tyre
- gears are working correctly
- the chain is properly adjusted and oiled
- the saddle and handlebars are adjusted to the correct height

It is recommended that you fit a bell to your cycle.

You **MUST**

- ensure your brakes are efficient
- at night, use lit front and rear lights and have a red rear reflector

[Laws PCUR regs 6 & 10 & RVL R reg 18]

Library Refurbishment

During the summer holidays our Library will be undergoing total refurbishment and redecoration. Together with the new computerized library management system we have installed, we will be using identikit fingerprint recognition technology instead of traditional library cards.

I want to assure you that your child's actual thumb print image is **NOT** stored. The software calculates a huge number from the image and it is the number itself which is stored. This number is then encrypted for further security.

The number **cannot** be used to re-construct the original image. At no time will your child's fingerprint be stored as an image on the school's computer.

The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner has scrutinized the technology and stated: "I would encourage you to employ the system using fingerprint images. It seems to me that the use of biometric identifiers allows users to verify their identity without the risk of intrusions into privacy. I would certainly like to be able to point to it as an example of good practice."

Buildings

During the holidays as well as the refurbishment of the Library; refurbishment of one of the Technology rooms and the provision of a new ICT classroom facility in the Technology area will also be carried out.

Attendance Matters

From September 2009 we are launching a new Attendance Policy where we will be working closely with parents to monitor students' attendance to school. Our school attendance figure is good but we hope to make it even better. There may be instances when we request meetings for you to attend to discuss attendance with our Attendance Officer, Mrs Gregory, and the Head of Year. These will be important in our overall goal of improving attendance to school and we will look to introducing new strategies to improve individual students' attendance levels.

There is a clear link between attendance and attainment and for students to reach their maximum potential we need to ensure we are working to continue to improve both levels. There will also be a new Parent Support Worker Mrs Kaz Woodall who will work with parents to promote good attendance as well as our school Educational Welfare Officer, Dee Hall.

If you require any further details our full Attendance Policy document will be on the school website from this September. Alternatively, please contact the school for a copy in September.

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Dates for Autumn Term

Thursday	20	August	'A' Level Results Day at Post 16 Centre Y13 Results: 10.00 am Y12 Results: 11.00 am All students wishing to progress onto Post 16 must sign up for an interview on results day or on Friday 28th August 2009.
Thursday	27	August	GCSE Results Day at Paulet High School: 10.00am – 12 noon
Monday	7	September	Staff Preparation Day
Tuesday	8	September	School re-opens for students - Autumn Term begins
Tuesday	8	September	Post 16: Year 12 Registration: 8.30 am – 2.50 pm
Wednesday	9	September	Post 16: Year 13 Registration: 8.30 am – 12.00 noon
Wednesday	9	September	Post 16: Year 12 Induction: 8.30 am – 3.00 pm
Thursday	10	September	Post 16: 8.30 am – 9.45 am P1 form period Year 12/13 P2 Lessons begin
Monday	14	September	Year 7 Geography Field Trip this week
Monday	14	September	Y12 Parents' Information Evening – 7.00 pm
Tuesday	15	September	PTFA AGM – 6.00 pm – Learning Resource Centre
Tuesday	22	September	School Photographer in school
Friday	2	October	Post 16 Centre: Student deadline for course changes
Tuesday	6	October	School Open Evening – 6.45 pm
Tuesday	20	October	Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening – 4.00 pm – 6.30 pm
Friday	23	October	Staff Training day – School closed to pupils Post 16 Centre closed to students
Monday – Friday	26 – 30	October	Half – Term Holiday
Monday	2	November	School re-opens
Thursday	5	November	Full Governors' Meeting – 6.00 pm
W/C	16	November	Geography Field Trip to Botanical Gardens
Tuesday	17	November	Post 16: Open Evening – 7.00 pm
Monday	16 - 22	November	Global Entrepreneurship Week
Tuesday	24	November	Awards Evening – 7 pm
Monday	30	November	Year 11 Mock Examinations begin
Tuesday	8	December	Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening
Friday	11	December	Lower School Carol Service
Friday	18	December	End of term – School closes for Christmas Holiday

Staffing

We say farewell, good luck and thank you to the following members of staff:

Mrs B J Owen in the Technology Department who is retiring after 22 years of loyal and conscientious service to the school;
 Mrs B A Pemberton, Head of Years 10 & 11, who is taking up the position of Head of English at an international school in Cyprus, leaves us after 20 years of exemplary service to the students of this school in a variety of roles;
 Miss A Bullen who takes up an English post at the John Taylor High School;
 Mrs D Wardle who moves to a school in Market Bosworth;
 Miss J Bailey who will work full time with the East Staffordshire Sports Partnership;
 Mrs J Rivers who will undertake nursing training;
 Mr K Gooding left our Premises Staff in May and was replaced by Mr D Clothier.

I am very grateful for the commitment and hard work of these staff to the students at our school and wish them well for the future.

We welcome the following staff who will take up post with us in September:

Mr G Norton will be Head of Years 10 and 11. He is presently Assistant Head of Year at John Willmott School in Sutton Coldfield.

Mrs C Rowan, an experienced teacher of Food and Textiles, will join the Technology Department.

Mrs S Yates, who completed her GTP training with us, joins the staff permanently as a teacher of RE.

Mrs P Matthews, Mrs D Ward and Miss A Sultan will start work at the school as Teaching Assistants.

I am pleased to report that once again the school is fully staffed by qualified personnel.

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Pupil Photographs

We often have the chance to have photographs of our pupils in the local newspapers. Occasionally we put photos on our website, though the pupils are never identified by name. It is our usual practice, wherever possible, to obtain the permission of parents for these to be published. In order to streamline the process, I am asking parents and carers to let the school office know if you do NOT wish any photographs of your child to be published. If we do not hear from you, we shall presume that you are happy for this to happen. We shall of course always try to let you know, via your son or daughter, if we have had any photographs taken.

Family Contact Numbers

Sometimes when we need to ring home for a pupil we have problems contacting parents as telephone numbers have been changed. Changes can be updated either by ringing the school office or completing the attached slip at the bottom of this newsletter. Slips should then be sent back to the school office for updating.

Finally

We shall follow our usual procedure in that school will close at 1.15pm on Tuesday 21st July so that a staff meeting and presentations can take place in the afternoon.

Students who normally have a school lunch will still be able to do so, but should let the Lunchtime Cashier know on the previous Friday so that arrangements can be made. If any parent would like their child to be supervised until the normal time of 2.50pm, they are asked to let me know by Friday 17th July 2009.

School will reopen at 8.30am on Tuesday 8th September for the new Year 7 & Sixth Formers, and at 9.45am for all other students. Students in Y8-11 next year must not arrive at school until 9.30am.

Finally I would like to wish you and your family an enjoyable and peaceful summer.

Yours sincerely,

Alexander Timms
Headteacher

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UPDATED TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Date:

Pupil's Name:

Form:

Contract Name:

Old Telephone No. to be removed:

New Telephone No:

Parent's signature: Print Name: