

26 September 2011

Letter to All Parents

Dear Parent/Guardian

Please find attached a hard copy of our new information booklet revised for 2011-12 which we have also published in PDF format on our website www.deerparkschool.net. We hope you will find this useful and that it will go some way to answering any questions that you may have.

2010-11 was another very successful year for Deer Park. In addition to becoming an Academy in April 2011, we have been awarded The British Council's prestigious International Schools Award for a further 3 years. We are also pleased to congratulate pupils in our 'Class of 2011', who achieved exceptional results in their GCSEs this summer. Furthermore, we have been impressed by the commitment our pupils have made to the new term, especially our new Year 7s, who we feel definitely benefited from their two induction days in July.

I advise you of a couple of important staff changes; for this year, Mr Johnson is Head of Key Stage 4 and Miss Brace is Head of Key Stage 3. Both are enjoying their new roles and are already getting to know pupils in their respective year groups. Mr Pike has also been appointed to the post of Assistant Head of Key Stage 3 from Monday 26 September.

To improve safety and access on to the School and College site, we have created a new pedestrian crossing. This has significantly reduced the potential for conflict with oncoming traffic.

The information booklet details our School Standards and expectations. Guidance regarding our school uniform is set out clearly in section 16 and for further clarification more detail is printed overleaf. Please be aware that 'non-uniform' items worn in school will be confiscated. This year, we will be reviewing our school uniform with pupils, parents, staff and governors and plan to make recommendations for September 2012.

I remind you that pupils with good attendance achieve significantly better outcomes than those whose attendance is poor. We appreciate that many of you are very good at informing us when your child is absent from School, however, sometimes we do not know why they are absent. In these cases our absence alert system will automatically contact you if your child is not marked present at registration. I remind you therefore that you may receive an automated telephone call to any of your home, mobile or work telephone numbers and these are repeated hourly until the system receives a reply. You can then respond and advise the School of the reason why your child is absent or speak to the School if you believe your child is present. If you have any concerns about this system or want to check your contact numbers please contact the relevant member of our pastoral team.

During the course of the year we will often take photographs or make videos to record activities and celebrate achievements. To help us, we would appreciate it if you could let us know in writing if you do not wish your son or daughter to appear in these.

We look forward to meeting you at our Parent's Evenings and other school events this year which will be publicised by letter, our weekly emailed newsletter and on our website. I hope you will be able to see 'The Wiz', our whole school production, which is currently in rehearsal. Performances will be on Wednesday 16, Thursday 17 and Friday 18 November 2011, with tickets on sale from Reception nearer the time. Our term dates for 2011-12 are also printed overleaf for information.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Chiquita Henson
Headteacher

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