



July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for taking the time to read this end of year letter. Just when you think things would be winding down for the summer holidays, I can assure you that it is all systems go here, ensuring that Activities Week is a success. Many of our year 7 students are camping, while the rest of the school are involved with various activities from Foot-golf to Rock climbing. We're also really grateful to Alison Lapper, who is a great friend to the school, for the Technical project she is delivering.

I'm really looking forward to officially taking over as Principal in September and I am pleased to announce that Sue Pike and Catherine Urwin have both been promoted to the position of Vice Principal starting in September. They are both exceptional leaders and like me, are very ambitious about what the future holds for our school.

As I hope you are starting to find, I'm very keen to ensure the Academy places itself at the heart of the community, and your feedback in this regard has been most welcome. I will continue to use Tuesday afternoons as Principal's Surgery so please feel free to book an appointment with reception.

At a recent KS3 Awards evening, I spoke to the students about the difference between earning something and simply getting it. As you will know there is great satisfaction in having a goal and working hard to achieve it, with this in mind we will start in September with a new Vision – *Aspire to Achieve* - and we will ensure this vision is central to everything we do at the Academy.

Another big focus for the Academy going forward is improving attendance. The correlation between attendance and results is startling. I can almost guarantee you that if your child has 100% attendance they will do remarkably well here, because that's what we see year after year; on the flip side, that guarantee goes the other way if attendance falls below 95%. The minority of students whose attendance falls below 90% almost always seriously underperform. The Academy has recently appointed a Home Liaison Officer to support those families for whom attendance is an issue and we look forward to Helen McDonald starting in September.

It is appropriate that I mention Uniform and I would ask that if you are purchasing school shoes over the summer please adhere to the Uniform policy and purchase black leather shoes; black trainers are not permitted. I would appreciate your support with this as mixed messages make it harder on everybody. Further details regarding uniform are available on our website www.srwa.woodard.co.uk.

Another big change for the new academic year is to the school day itself. Students will be "checked in" every morning by their tutors at 8:50am to make sure all the basics are in place, including equipment, uniform and general readiness for learning. The tutor is your first port of call if you need to communicate with the school and your relationship with the tutor is an important one. We have removed the 20mins DEAR time and as a result the normal school day will finish at 3:00pm. As always, we will have an extensive extra-curricular offer details of which will appear on our website in September.



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Finally, please find enclosed information for those families that are awaiting examination results. This is the first year we will really notice the changes and the FAQ sheet from ASCL is helpful in explaining some of these changes.

I wish you all a very safe and restful summer. Thank you again for all of your support this year and I look forward to meeting more of you at Principal's Surgery in the coming academic year.

Yours faithfully

Kieran Scanlon
Principal Designate

Attachment