

19 July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the summer holiday, I wanted to share with you some of the excitement about the end of this term.

End of term events

Our 'No Limits' experience has been a huge success with students engaged in fun, practical and team-building events. Year 8 students have been enjoying time away from technology at The Birks whilst back in school we held our first 'Get Active Day' with students participating in a huge range of events including: boxing, squash, hockey and cycling in our beautiful local area. There was also dodge archery, bubble football, retro gaming and the ever popular 'It's a Knock-out' activities. The Colour Run was a real highlight with many staff looking very green by the end of the day!.

On Monday of this week, my mind was blown away by the work of our students in the Imagineering Club. They presented their designs from 3-D printers to staff and governors with confidence and huge expertise. From butterflies to a robot hand, their imagination and love of discovery knows no limits! They have ambitious plans for the future and we will keep you informed.

Year 10 have been entering the world of work having just completed their work experience. As well as local primary schools and businesses such as Mueller, placements included dressing up as a Victorian at Ironbridge Museum! We are grateful to parents and the business community for supporting our students so well.

It has been great to work with primary schools welcoming Year 5 for their taster days where they experienced life at 'big school'. We loved watching them build Ironbridge from spaghetti and they created a real buzz around the School.

I very much enjoyed welcoming parents and students from Year 6 who will be joining us in September and they had a fabulous two days' induction here which will help them make an easy transition next academic year. They were very ably supported by our ambassadors who are excellent role models and we thank them very much for the support and commitment they show to The Grove.

Parent Drop-ins

Finally, we have held Parent Drop-ins for the past two Thursdays and I would like to thank those parents who have attended. One point for discussion was the data we provide for parents about their child's progress. From September all reports will include an end of Year 11 target grade per subject. This will allow parents and students to have a clear understanding of what they are ultimately aiming for. We will also be introducing Learning Journeys from September where all students will have detailed information about what skills and content they are learning for each topic, broken down into learning steps that are tracked by staff and students. This will allow you to look at your child's books and know how they are progressing. The parents we spoke to about this said that they thought they would find this very informative

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Attendance

Attending school is essential for students to make good progress, achieve their academic potential and consequently have better chances in life. As a school we have a target of 95% and we are being supported by a new Educational Welfare Officer who is joining us in September. May I remind you to report any absence on every day that your child is absent. Can I also remind you where possible to make medical appointments outside of school time. Should you need any help or support with any matters that might affect attendance please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor or pastoral support.

Stay safe while using mobile phones, social media and apps

Over the summer holiday, children may be spending a lot of time on social media and downloading apps. I want to take this opportunity to remind you of the dangers that this can present and to remind you to be vigilant about your child's access to social media. If you would like any further information on how to monitor the use of social media, you can visit our website where there is an e-safety tab under Student Support and you will find lots of useful information here.

Examination Results

Finally I am looking forward as I have mentioned before to celebrating with our students on our results' days: **Year 13 - 16 August, 09:00 – 11:00** in Grove College and **Year 11 - 23 August, 09:00 – 11:00** in the main hall. Year 10 students receiving Sport or English Literature results can come in to school on 23 August at 10:00 to receive their results.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. I very much look forward to working with you in September when I will be sending out details of our next Parent Drop-ins and wish you all a wonderful summer holiday.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Sonia Taylor | Headteacher