

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of the Autumn term I write to keep you up-to-date with one or two developments as we look forward to 2010.

Building Developments

The School has sought planning permission for the next improvement to our buildings at the North End (Science end) of the main corridor. We hope to replace Mrs. Hochland's rather cramped Art room with a two storey construction which, on the ground floor, will provide a Food Technology classroom and, on the first floor, a large and well lit Art classroom. Assuming planning permission is granted demolition and construction will begin in May with an expected completion date of December 2010.

If you have visited the School in the late afternoon or during the evening recently you will have seen that our floodlights on the Astroturf are being well used. "The Grammar" has been open for 15 months and it is proving to be a popular facility for boys at the School and with members of the local community. The floodlit Astroturf has attracted bookings from hockey and football teams for every week day evening up to 9.00 p.m.

Staffing changes

Next term we welcome Mr. Kidd who joins us from The Hayfield School in Doncaster to teach Biology. Mrs. Thompson, who teaches Spanish, goes on maternity leave for two terms and we welcome Ms. Butcher as her replacement.

Congratulations to

all those involved in the many sports teams which have competed with such dedication so far this year. There have been more sports fixtures this term than ever before and thanks are due to the teaching staff and many parents who do so much to support these matches.

all those students involved in the Autumn Music Concert which took place earlier this month. There were some outstanding performances and particular congratulations go to the Year 7 participants who sang their class songs very well indeed.

Charity fundraising

In the second half of this term (as in previous years), each form in the School has been given a challenge to raise funds for charity. This year our chosen charities have been The Children's Adventure Farm Trust based in Millington and two overseas Charities Educaid (Sierra Leone) and Room to Read (around the world). Students have responded magnificently and creatively to this Charity challenge and at the moment of writing the sum raised is £1,750 and rising.

The Grammar' car park

May I ask parents who drop their son off in 'The Grammar' car park not to stop immediately after entering the car park as this is causing congestion on Marlborough Road. Please find a car park space before letting your son exit the car.

January Public Exams

January will see most Sixth Form students involved in taking AS or A2 exam modules – either resitting exams or taking them early. Students will be entitled to a **half day's study leave** before each exam paper but no more since this would interfere with ongoing teaching.

End of Term/Beginning of Term

School finishes for the Christmas and New Year holiday at noon on Friday 18th December immediately after our Carol Service at St. Mary's Church. We will be collecting for the charities mentioned above following the Carol Service so please make sure your son brings a donation on that day. At the end of term boys in Year 9 will be issued with full reports and boys in Year 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 & 13 will receive end of term grade sheets. School reopens for pupils at 8.35 a.m. on Monday 4th January 2010. On that day the Spring edition of the termly 'Bulletin' magazine will be issued to all pupils with all the key dates for the term on the back page. In the meantime you may wish to note the most important dates below whilst the full list will soon be available for view on the School website.

Year 7 Parents & Students Evenings – 5.00 – 7.30 p.m. Thursday 7th January for **Forms KL, RF, PS, SY only** and 5.00 – 7.30 p.m. Tuesday 12th January for **Forms JE, HA, SQ only.**

Year 12 Parents & Students Evening – 5.00 – 7.30 p.m. Thursday 21st January 2010

Year 10 Parents & Students Evening – 5.00 – 7.30 p.m. Tuesday 26th January 2010

Higher Education Evening – 7.00 – 8.45 Tuesday 9th February 2010

Year 8 Parents & Students Evening – 5.00 – 7.30 p.m. Wednesday 10th February 2010

Year 9 Options Evening - 7.00 p.m. 23rd February 2010

Year 9 Parents & Students Evening – 5.00 – 7.30 p.m. 2nd March 2010

Year 11 & 13 annual reports issued to Parents at the end of first half term

School Drama Production - Romeo & Juliet by William Shakespeare – 17th, 18th & 19th March 2010

Year 12 reports issued to Parents – 26th March 2010

Deadline for Year 12 students to have organised their end of summer term work shadowing placements – 26th March 2010

The holiday dates for the next academic year are attached and are also on the school's website.

Best wishes to everyone for a very enjoyable holiday.

Yours sincerely

T. J. Gartside
Head Master