

Dear Parents

As the term draws to an end I want to thank you for all the support you have offered your sons and daughters so that they can be successful in school. We have had a great year and the young people at our school have so much to be proud of. We will be sharing an album of highlights of the year on our website. Do have a look.

The end of the year always means that we have a number of farewells and I am sure that you will join me in wishing the following staff well as they move on to new posts:

- Mrs Stevens is moving to Sheffield where she will take the role of Head of English.
- Mrs Dougherty is leaving us to spend more time in her own studio; we look forward to seeing more of her beautiful work
- Mr Preston leaves us to join the English Department at Wymondham College
- Mr Van Spronsen is returning to his home territory, Vancouver Island in Canada
- Mrs S Page is leaving us to embark on further study

We wish them all the very best and thank for their rich and varied contributions.

Much of the summer term involves exciting and often behind the scenes work preparing for the new academic year. In particular we are planning initiatives to enable all our pupils to achieve very high standards of literacy, and also provide structures and support for them to take increasing responsibility for their own learning. To support our literacy work I would urge you to encourage your children to engage in some reading over the summer break. I know that some will not need any encouragement but if your sons or daughters are less keen to read a gentle prompt could be helpful. There is a close link between good reading skills and exam success across the board. We will share details of these plans in the new academic year.

We are grateful to our parents for supporting our young people to have very high standards of personal presentation. Visitors to our school never fail to comment on how impressed they are by the smart appearance and good manners of our pupils. We know that smart presentation increases self-confidence and developing this habit supports success beyond school. I am attaching to this email the outline of our expectations. We have updated our Parent Handbook and will send you a new copy in September.

Improving attendance has been a priority for us and I am pleased to let you know that attendance has improved substantially this year and is currently in line with the national average. Missing lessons rapidly impacts on pupils' progress so we are very grateful to you for supporting your children to attend regularly.

Pupils return to school on Wednesday 4th September. The first day back will start at 0830 for year 7 pupils and 0930 for other pupils. All pupils will start the day with a form period and lessons will begin after break.

We hope that all of our pupils enjoy a restorative break.