

No 01 - 12th September 2007

Dear Parents, Staff, Governors and friends,



WELCOME - ESPECIALLY TO PARENTS OF NEW STUDENTS

Welcome to the start of the new school year. Everywhere's looking bright and fresh and clean because of the new paint. The whole building has been redecorated over the holidays. People too are looking good in their new school uniform, as many have commented. Thanks to everyone who has helped with this. Everywhere feels full of hope and promise.



EXAM SUCCESS

We are hugely proud of our hundreds of examination candidates who performed so well in June. 63% of those at A Level achieved grades A or B, for the second year running, and 81% of those at GCSE achieved 5 grades A-C (the best results for a non-selective school in the city). All of our Y11s - 100% - achieved 5 A*-G, which is a remarkable figure, because it reflects an outstanding performance by students of all abilities, not just the most able. Last year's Y9s too performed extremely well. Their SATs results in English, Maths and Science all produced figures of 82% and above for level 5s, in English, Maths and Science. Very well done to all. We're extremely proud of you.



THE WEDNESDAY LETTER

is published every other Wednesday. Please expect it and if it doesn't come out of the bag, please ask for it. It's our primary way of communicating with you. We hope you'll find it interesting and useful, but even if you don't, please insist that you are given your copy so that you can make your own mind up!



CONGRATULATIONS

to one of our students who completed her A level studies at Tipton in the Summer. Out of nine thousand, nine hundred candidates for Edexcel Theatre Studies, her marks were one of the ten best in the country. Her specialism was costume design, which is what she's now pursuing at university.

And to one of our students who this Summer became the youngest person, at 16, to go solo gliding in over 35 years at the Derbyshire and Lancashire Gliding Club. His gliding tuition was funded by a bursary from The Caroline Trust.

We always aim to congratulate publicly anyone in our community who's done something worthy of praise. If you think we might not have heard about it, send Mr Storer a note, so that he can include a mention of it in the Wednesday Letter.



CAN YOU HELP US?

Our PTA needs more people to join and help plan and run events. We meet about six times a year. The meetings are always friendly and informal and a great way to meet people and become familiar with the school. Not everyone can go to all the events but they are tremendously enjoyable and at the same time raise about £6000 a year for the school. This year we supported several departments but also were able to help individual students going on enterprising activities in other parts of the world. **On Wednesday Sept 26 th it is our Annual General Meeting** for anyone who is able to come. Please join us for a drink **in the Library at school at 7.30** – there'll be an opportunity to hear about the adventures of some of the students who received awards, and to share ideas and plan events for the coming year.



SAFETY AT THE SCHOOL ENTRANCE

May we repeat our concern about people who drive right up to the front entrance with students, at the beginning and end of school. It is dangerous, a) because it increases the traffic flow onto Darwin Lane at a very busy time and b) because it hinders others who need to use the space, especially those bringing visually or physically impaired students. Please don't do it. Most children are perfectly capable of meeting you further down on Tapton Park Road, even carrying a musical instrument, and it's much safer for everyone else. **Students in the 6 th form who wish to bring cars to school** are not allowed to park in the school grounds. There is insufficient space for staff and visitors and there have been accidents.



ECO-ARTS - THE LOWER SCHOOL ARTS PROJECT

Calling all musicians, singers, dancers, rappers, poets, actors This year's Lower School Arts Project takes place on Tues 13 th November, at 7.30. It is open to students who can perform a short piece on the theme of 'eco-arts' – anything to do with protecting and saving our environment. If you are interested please come to a meeting on Mon 17 th September at 1 p.m. in room 117.



SUPPORT FOR AFRICA

Many thanks to all year 8 who supported the school disco at the end of last term. We raised an amazing £250 towards our link with Nchelenge School in Zambia.



CHRISTIAN PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on Tues 25 th Sept at 8 p.m., 6 Hagg Lane. Everyone is welcome. If anyone has any prayer requests, or wants further information, please contact Wendy on 2630328.



ADDITION TO THE SCHOOL CALENDAR

There will be an additional Training Day (when children should not be in school) on January 21 st .



LOCAL MEND PROGRAMME AT HANDSWORTH GRANGE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE

The MEND programme is a community, family based programme for 7-13 year old overweight and obese children and their families. With an emphasis on practical, fun learning, the programme is designed to deliver sustained improvements in families' diets, fitness levels and overall health. Visit www.mendprogramme.org or phone 2542658.



DAWN - SUPPORTING ADULTS AND CHILDREN AFTER COUPLES SPLIT UP

Have you split up from your partner? Are you struggling to cope with your feelings? We can offer the following: someone to talk to; individual support; group support; events and activities; volunteer opportunities. Contact dawn@sheffield.anglican.org or phone 01709 382728 www.dawnproject.org.uk



CLUBS/PRACTICES LUNCHTIME AND BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

This week and in the next edition of the Wednesday Letter we will be giving you full details of all the clubs and activities around school. Make sure you get your copy.