

23rd November 2018

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Headteacher: Mr P.J Bowers MAEd

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to update you on a number of recent developments that have taken place since the start of the academic year. I am conscious that school years progress at such a rapid pace and before we know it we'll be looking forward to the Christmas holidays!

Firstly, I would like to share with you more details of our continued academic success. As many of you are aware, all pupils undertake rigorous, externally verified, national level tests called "GL Assessments" at the beginning and end of each year. We of course use these tests to inform and more accurately focus our teaching and learning provision. This data is also used as a measure of our effectiveness as a Middle School, from entry at Year 5 to when pupils leave in Year 8.

We are delighted to confirm that, once again, our pupils achieve at a level significantly above other pupils nationally in English, Maths and Science. This has been the case for the last 3 years and is also improving every year.

We are also very keen to ensure we identify and address issues with regard to our pupils' wellbeing and attitude towards school. Each year they complete a national survey, "Pupil Attitude towards Self and School" (PASS). This enables us to measure and address wellbeing issues among groups and individuals; as a result of this information, we are then able to implement strategies to ensure potential issues are addressed.

The data from this whole school survey confirms that our pupils' attitudes towards school and their learning are exceptionally positive and above national levels for every criteria in every year group. Whilst we are of course rightly proud of this feedback, the survey does identify some issues among certain groups and individuals which Mrs Davison and Mrs Deas in particular are pro-actively addressing.

The full PASS survey and GL Assessment data will shortly be on our website should you wish to see further detail.

This exceptionally high level of pupil achievement and commitment cannot happen without the hard work and expertise of our teaching staff, the commitment and exceptional work ethic of our pupils and your support and engagement with school. All of these factors are crucial if we are to continue to perform at such a high level.



To assist with your efforts to engage with school, you will be aware we have developed the “Go4 Schools” system. Please take the time to log in to view your child’s reports and to check on homework. We hope to further develop this system in the coming months to give you more easily accessible information about your child’s attitude to learning and behaviour

As you know, we achieve our levels of excellence without sacrificing our commitment to the broad, rich and diverse curriculum which we cherish as a Middle School. To this end, we are constantly looking to enhance our provision through a range of school led extra-curricular activities. I have been delighted with the number of pupils who are taking part in our clubs before school, at lunchtime and after school. Please check our website for further details of the clubs we offer as these do change on approximately a half-termly basis.

If your child is not engaging with any of the clubs, could I ask that you encourage them to do so? We are very proud of the number of activities we offer and believe that pupils who engage with their school during these times are more successful, and hopefully happier in school. We are also keen for pupils to develop and organise their own clubs and if they have a particular interest in doing this they can discuss the arrangements with either Mrs Davison or Mrs Deas.

As you are aware we also organise a significant amount of out of school experiences for our children. These may be in the form of our residential activities for every year group, after school visits or curriculum led day trips. These day trips require a huge amount of effort to organise and do require a voluntary contribution from parents if they are to take place. In the current financial climate, I hope you understand that it is becoming increasingly difficult to run these trips without sufficient parental contributions. We aim to give you more notice in the future when we advertise these trips, but unfortunately we will have to cancel them should the contributions not cover the cost.

Finally, I would like to make you aware that our PTA has been “resurrected” and is being led in the short term by some of our Governors. Mr Napier, Chair of our Governing Body, would welcome any of you who feel you may be able to volunteer to help us raise funds for the pupils and also increase the number of community “events” we have in school.

Yours sincerely

P J Bowers  
Headteacher