

17th September 2007

Our Ref: DJE/mjh

Dear Parent/Carer

As we are now well into the Autumn Term of this new Academic Year, I would like to share with you one or two pieces of information that I hope you will find of interest. **Firstly, please note that the SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED TO STUDENTS on FRIDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER for a Staff Training Day.** Additionally, the school **WILL BE CLOSED TO STUDENTS** on the afternoons (from 1.30 pm) on **TUESDAY, 16th OCTOBER and THURSDAY, 18th OCTOBER.**

At the start of this school year, we welcomed a full cohort from different middle schools into Year 8, and a small number into other year groups. Again, this year, we have not been able to admit the total number of people who made application, as we are well over-subscribed. We do hope, therefore, that all those who have joined us will enjoy a happy, fulfilling, busy time and that they will emulate the success and respect that their predecessors have brought to themselves and the school.

In addition to our new students, we also welcome new colleagues to our full complement of staff:

Mr Shiret (Head of D.T.); Mrs Shipton (Teacher of English); Ms Cheeseman (Teacher of Art); Mr Cooper (Teacher of ICT); Mr Chapman (Teacher of Science); Ms Gardner (English GTP); Mr Day (English GTP); Ms Francis (DT Food GTP); Ms Bardell (Curriculum Support Worker for English); Ms Cox (LSA), Ms Rackstraw (LSA) and Mr Charter (Cover Supervisor).

I am delighted to be able to report that last year's students at this school achieved their best ever results with 81% of students gaining 5+ A*-C grades; 53% including 5+ A*-C grades in English and Maths. If standards are to be maintained, or better still improved, it is vital that all students, parents and staff work together. One example of that partnership is homework, together we must endeavour to ensure set homework is completed. It is for this reason that we ask you to monitor closely the homework given to your son/daughter each day and to communicate to the form teacher by writing in the homework diary should you have any worries or concerns.

I would thank all of you for making such an effort to ensure that our students are so smartly dressed and in school uniform. Visitors to the school constantly remind us how much our high standards in appearance are valued, not only by those in Education but also by Industry and Commerce. As a parent myself, I am well aware of the expense involved in keeping young people smart; consequently, may I assure you of my gratitude for all the efforts and, in some cases, sacrifices that you have made. May I remind you that mobile phones and MP3 players are not allowed in school, they will be confiscated and parents will need to collect them from the administration office. Please remind your son/daughter that, should they wish to contact home for any reason – i.e. illness, forgotten kit, etc., they should make contact with the Student Office in the first instance. Student absences should be reported to the Student Office on telephone no. (01493) 660248.

We would also ask if you could support us when detentions are set. Detentions are set for a variety of reasons: missing homework, incomplete coursework, behaviour in class, incorrect uniform/equipment, punctuality, etc. Detention letters are sent home and they will explain the reason for the detention. Please ensure that the 'permission reply slip' at the bottom of the letter is signed, returned to school and handed to the Form Tutor before or on the day of the detention.

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As you will be aware, textbooks in schools are becoming increasingly expensive and we always seek to buy the best available to suit the needs of our pupils. Clearly, we loan books to pupils to enable them to work from them at home. We do ask that you help us to impress on the students the importance of looking after these books and exercise books. Unfortunately, if books become lost or damaged, it is necessary for us to ask for money towards the purchase of replacements.

Could we respectfully ask that vehicles are not brought on to the school site when dropping off and collecting students at the start and finish of the school day, this is particularly hazardous whilst our building programme for Year 7 reorganisation is underway. Many new classrooms have been completed and it is anticipated that the Humanities Area will be completed within the next 3 / 4 weeks. Students are already enjoying the new Learning Resource Centre and the English Suite of classrooms. Additionally, Lynn Grove is becoming increasingly congested with traffic and we would ask, on behalf of ourselves and our neighbours, to drive and park with the utmost caution.

The school is required, by law, to pass on certain data to local authorities and Government agencies. They are all "data controllers" in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. For further details, please see our school's web site.

I have listed overleaf term dates for the next two academic years and some useful dates for this year.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank past parents for their continued support and encouragement and invite parents of our new intake to work with us as we seek to educate the students to reach their maximum potential whilst at Lynn Grove High School.

Yours sincerely

D J EVANS
Headteacher

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