

September 2009

## Dear Parents/Guardians – Years 9, 10 and 11

We are now well into the new school year and I would like to bring you up to date with recent events and to pass on some information about the rest of this term.

### Examination Results 2009

GCSE Results: all parents and friends of the school will be absolutely delighted that we achieved the best results ever and that they were outstanding in terms of all the major benchmarks:

At Key Stage 4 (GCSE):	% of pupils achieving	
	5 or more A* to C grades:	81.5%
	1 or more A* – C grades:	94.3%

I am sure that you will wish to join me in congratulating all pupils and the school staff on their success. We wish all our pupils well for the future. We hope to see as many GCSE students as possible return to collect their certificates at Upper School Presentation evening on Wednesday 25 November.

**The Snaith School Governing Body - Parent Governors** – a separate letter will be issued shortly as we have two vacancies for parent Governors to join the School Governing Body. We would like to thank Christine Hargreaves and Simon Froom for their valued contribution over the last few years.

### The Snaith School Association

All parents/guardians are members of the Snaith School Association and are welcome to join us at our meetings. You can find the dates of these in the annual calendar sent home previously. If you are unable to attend meetings but are willing to help the SSA at events including the Lower School Discos - please contact the chair Alison Leetham through school. Without adequate parental support we will not be able to run these school discos. The SSA have items of PE kit in stock throughout the year. Order forms are available from Reception at school. There will be a Bags2School collection later in the school year, so please keep any unwanted clothing, shoes, bags, bedding, curtains etc. ready for the collection.

### School Uniform

I would like to thank all parents for their co-operation in ensuring that our pupils have appeared in school so well dressed at the start of the new year. We would like to maintain this very high standard and would ask for parents support with the few remaining specific problems outlined below:

**Long Cardigans** – although we have not specified in the uniform list – cardigans and jumpers should be waist length

**Jewellery/Body Piercing** – Apart from a watch (boys/girls) or one pair of earrings in the form of gold/silver studs or SMALL sleepers for pierced ears, jewellery must NOT be worn in school. **No other forms of body piercing allowed.**

**Hair** – Tram lines, v shapes at the back or extremes of colour are not acceptable for school.

**Shoes** Black or brown, flat heeled, with laces tied, **not trainers or boots** (footwear that covers the ankle and above

Please continue to support us by helping us keep up this high standard throughout the school year.

### School Calendar of Events

You should have already received a school calendar giving the dates of all the main school events this year. A reminder is given below of events this half term:

Monday 21 September	Year 7 Cognitive Ability Tests
Thursday 24 September	Year 7 Parents Evening and Residential Information/SSA AGM
	Health Event “Positive Choices – It’s up to you” – open to all Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils and parents – 7 pm
Friday 25 September	Lower School Disco
Tuesday 29 September – 5 October	Book Fair – School Library
Thursday 1 October	Governors Meeting
Friday 2 October	Jeans for Genes Day – Non Uniform Event
Wednesday 7 October	Open Evening
Thursday 8 October	School Photographer – yrs 7 and 9
	Year 11 Theatre visit
	National Poetry Day
Monday 12 – Friday 23 October	Year 11 Work Experience
Monday 12 - Friday 16 October	Year 11 Army Residential
Wednesday 14 – Friday 16 October	Year 7 Residential Visit
Friday 16 October	ACE Day
Thursday 22 October	School closes 3.35 pm
Friday 23 October	Training Day
Monday 2 November	School re-opens

**Parents who bring their children to school by car** and/or collect them at the end of school.

We are again concerned about the potential for an accident as parents’ cars compete for space with buses at the front of school as they offload/collect pupils between 8.40 and 9.00am and 3.35 and 4.00pm. It would be in everyone’s interest if this procedure could take place a short distance away from the school, with the pupils walking the last stretch. We have sometimes had the situation at 3.45pm in particular when parents have been waiting in cars at the front of the school in such a way as to prevent buses from accessing the site properly, leading to problems on Pontefract Road itself. Please note if parents park on the school site as school closes they will be unable to depart until the school buses have moved off. **Please follow the one way system through the school site and do not under any circumstances leave the school through the entrance.** I would be grateful if parents could bear these points in mind.

### **Pupil Attendance**

Parents/Guardians please note that we strongly advise that family holidays should be taken in school holiday periods only, absence during term time impacts significantly on pupil progress. If your son/daughter is commencing their KS4 education, please contact school if you are considering taking a holiday during term time. With the current curriculum constraints, pupils study a considerable number of modular courses which result in revision and examinations throughout the school year. Please remember that there is much research to suggest that pupils with less than 100% attendance impacts on attainment at the end of their secondary education.

### **Pupil Planners**

All pupils have received a pupil planner which is to be used to record homework and is a means of communication between home and school. We ask that parents check and sign the planner each week. By now all planners should be clearly marked to show what your child’s emergency closure procedure option is.

### **Swine flu**

I sent out a letter at the end of term which all pupils (Year 7 pupils should have received one from their Primary School) should have brought home giving advice to parents. The guidance has not changed but it is expected there will be an increase in the number of cases nationally in the autumn. Please take the usual precautions – if your child is ill and not fit to attend school please do not send them. We do have excellent First Aid cover in school but we do not have the capacity to deal with children who have been sent to school with obvious signs of illness. If your child is in one of the identified ‘at risk’ groups if they become ill or are showing any symptoms please contact your doctor. I will keep you up to date with any changes to this advice.

### **Health Drop-In Service/Positive Choice Evening**

The Governors have recently approved an extension to our current health drop-in service for young people at The Snaith School.

Many secondary schools in England, with the support of local authorities and governors, are moving towards offering this new range of services to their students on their school sites. The extended service will offer a wide range of health and social services to our pupils run by Jo Bamford, School Health Advisor, Goole.

Jo Bamford is on hand weekly to offer completely confidential advice and information on a wide range of health issues which affect young people today, including obesity and anorexia, drugs, smoking cessation, alcohol abuse, bereavement, relationships, stress, fitness and diet.

In addition to this further support for Y9, 10 and 11 will now be available. With the alarming increase in the level of sexually transmitted diseases amongst the under 19's nationally, it is vital that young people are able to gain access to guidance and information on sexual health matters. As part of the new service at The Snaith School, Jo Bamford will be qualified to advise on the use of condoms and to issue them to individual students under strict NHS protocols. Parents should be aware that the contraceptive pill will not be prescribed on the school site. Any young person seeking advice about oral contraception, emergency contraception or pregnancy would receive information at the drop-in. Pregnancy testing will be available on the school site as will Chlamydia tests, but all young people making these enquiries will be then referred onto the appropriate local service. In all cases, a young person would be encouraged to discuss the matter with their parents. The service will be available for pupils each Tuesday from 12.35 -1.30pm

If you would like to discuss this matter with a health professional or a senior member of the school staff we are holding a Positive Choices event on Thursday 24 September. The event will be attended by a range of health related professionals and there will be stands and workshops. We are confident both parents and pupils will find the event interesting and informative and will be very pleased if you can join us.

We are looking forward to another very successful year. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

**J. D. Pickerill**  
**Headteacher**

The Snaith School, will on request, provide this document in large print. If English is not your first language and you would like a translation of this document please contact the school.