

September 2010

## Dear Parents/Guardians – Years 7 and 8

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 this term.

### New Staff

We would like to welcome the following new staff to the school and wish them a long and successful career at the school:

Mr Leader - Deputy Headteacher  
Mrs Barnett - Classroom Assistant – Food/Textiles  
Mr Heywood - Cover Supervisor  
Mr Franklin - PE teacher  
Ms Till - ICT teacher  
Mr Clayton - Caretaker

In addition, a number of existing staff have taken up new roles and the current Heads of Year are as follows:

Year 7 -Mrs Hall  
Year 8 - Miss MacInnes  
Year 9 - Mr Goodsell  
Year 10 - Mr Wilson  
Year 11 - Miss Ramsay

### Work over the summer

If you have passed the school you will no doubt have seen that we have replaced some more of the front part of the building with aluminium, steel and Trespa curtain walling. This is an ongoing project to replace the old wooden frames etc and to make the building weatherproof. In the summer holidays all the toilets have been decorated as has the drama studio and school kitchen, there are also new signs at the front of the school.

### Examination Results 2010

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:

<b>At Key Stage 4 (GCSE):</b>	% of pupils achieving	
	5 or more A* to C grades	91.1%
	1 or more A* – C grades:	96.8%
	5+ A* – C inc English and Maths	63%

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 24 November.

### 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 Carole O'Connor on 01405 860327. Without adequate parental support we will not be able to run the 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.

Forthcoming events:

Lower School Disco - Friday 24 September, 7.30-10.00 pm [subject to offers of help]

AGM - Tuesday 30 September - immediately after Yr 7 Residential meeting

Lower School Disco - Friday 12 November, 7.30-10.00 pm

Christmas Bingo - Monday 6 December, 7.30 pm

Bags2School Collection - Tuesday 7 December – items can be brought to school any time up to 6 December

### 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 and style are not acceptable for school.

**Shoes** Black or brown, flat heeled, with laces tied, **not trainers, pumps 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 20 September	Year 7 Cognitive Ability Tests
Friday 24 September	Lower School Disco
Tuesday 28 September – 4 October	Book Fair – School Library
Thursday 30 September	Year 7 Parents Evening and Residential Information/SSA AGM
Wednesday 6 October	Open Evening
Thursday 7 October	School Photographer – yrs 7 and 9
	National Poetry Day
Monday 11 - Friday 22 October	Year 11 Work Experience
Wednesday 13 - Friday 15 October	Year 7 Residential Visit
Wednesday 13 - Friday 15 October	ACE Days
Monday 18 - Friday 22 October	Year 11 Army Residential
Thursday 21 October	Options Fair – Yr 9 4 – 6 pm
	School closes
Friday 22 October	Training Day
Monday 1 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 / Attendance Policy

As you may be aware from a report in the January edition of the East Riding News and subsequent items on local TV, children living in the East Riding of Yorkshire are more likely to miss school due to their parents taking them on term time holidays than in any other area of the country. This in turn has a negative impact on

attainment. For example, in 2007 only 36% of students in secondary schools with more than 12 days absence achieved 5 GCSE's compared to 91% of students with an average of 6 days absence.

As a school we are committed to work with all other East Riding schools and the Local Authority to reduce the number of school days missed due to term time holidays. At present the governors have decided to delay a decision until later in the Autumn term on implementing the full range of options available under a new policy introduced across the East Riding. However, we are advising parents that from September 2010, term time holidays should not be taken at the following times:

- During the first 6 weeks of any academic year for any pupils
- During Years 10 and 11 for any pupils
- At any time where any pupils will miss an external examination or where there are important school events which require attendance

As there is no actual entitlement for parents to be able to take children out of school for a term time holiday, I would advise parents who are considering doing so to contact the school first to discuss the situation as otherwise the holiday **may** be counted as an unauthorized absence.

### **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.

### **Data Protection/Booklet**

You should have received this information last week through the pupil post – please check the bottom of bags first, but if not let us know if you have not received this information

### **Lost Property**

We have an enormous amount of unclaimed lost property left from last year all of which is un-named, this includes expensive coats, trainers, PE kit etc. We have asked pupils to look through the lost property if they lost anything last year but over 10 bin bags remain. If your child loses something at school or says that it has been stolen they should first check the cloakroom, then in the medical room; if the item is still not found they should report the matter to reception who will put something on the daily sheet. More often than not the item is found fairly quickly. **Parents can help by making sure that all items are clearly marked with the child's name and form.**

### **Staff Vacancies - Mid-day supervisors**

We are looking to extend our team of supervisors; hours are just 1.25 hours per school day. Please contact Christine Slater at school for further details.

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.