

September 2011

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 2011

GCSE Results: all parents and friends of the school will be absolutely delighted that our pupils again achieved outstanding results. The headline data is below:

At Key Stage 4 (GCSE): % of pupils achieving

5 or more A* to C grades: 84 %

1 or more A* – C grades: 95.1 %

5 or more A*-C grades including English and Mathematics 61.3%

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 the Key Stage 4 Awards Evening on Wednesday 23rd 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 school. Without adequate parental support we will not be able to run these school discos. **The first School Disco is for Years 7, 8 and 9 and is on the calendar for Friday 23 September 7.30 – 10.00 pm, cost £3.50, to include a packet of crisps and a drink. Volunteers are urgently required, please ring Carole O'Connor at school. In addition a reminder to parents that pupils are not allowed to wear kitten heels and chewing gum is prohibited.**

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.

Online Payments

We would like to inform you that we have introduced a new 'Online Payment' system, to enable parents to pay for trips and items such as ties, memory pens and revision guides by credit or debit card. This is a secure site which can be accessed through the school website, which enables parents to make and view their payment history online. Further details will follow.

School Improvement Plan 2011-2014

A summary document of the School Improvement Plan is attached for your information together with the objectives for 2011-12. If you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

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, 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, together with an omission from the calendar:

Monday 19 September	CATS tests for Year 7 pupils throughout the week
Friday 23 September	7.30 – 10.00 School Disco (please see request above for assistance)
Tuesday 27/Monday 3 October	BOOK FAIR
Thursday 29 September	Year 7 Parents Evening – 5.30 pm – with Form Tutors for concerns Year 7 Parents Evening - 6.30 pm – Residential information SSA AGM
Friday 30 September	Year 7 Photos (pm)
Tuesday 4 October	Open Evening (6 pm)
Thursday 6 October	Year 9 Photos (pm) National Poetry Day
Saturday 8/Sunday 9 October	Year 8 London Theatre Trip
Monday 17 October	Year 8 girls HPV Vaccinations
Mon 17/Weds 19 October	Year 7 Residential Trip 1
Weds 19/Fri 21 October	Year 7 Residential Trip 2
Thursday 20 October	ACE Day – please note new date Half term commences 3.35 pm
Friday 21 October	Staff Development Day – NO PUPILS IN SCHOOL
Wednesday 11 July	Key Stage 3 Presentation Evening

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

There remains 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.

Mobile phones/electronic devices/inappropriate use of the internet

Mobile phones and other electronic devices are not allowed in school. Pupils are not allowed to video or record **any school activity** without the permission of a member of staff. Pupils should not under any circumstance upload materials (including photographs) taken on any school activity onto the internet – this includes onto social networking sites such as Facebook.

Health Drop-In Service

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 Carole Clarke, School Health Advisor, Goole.

Mrs Clarke 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 service at The Snaith School, Mrs Clarke 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 -1.30 pm.

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.

