

18 February 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 8 and 9

As you are aware there are no longer any formal statutory tests at the end of Year 9 and so we are taking the opportunity to prepare Year 8 and 9 pupils for GCSE. Year 9 pupils have already begun to study for GCSE RE and will take this examination at the end of Year 10. This summer Year 9 will also take an actual module GCSE examination in Mathematics on Monday 13 June. Pupils will be thoroughly prepared for the examinations and will be given a revision CD Rom and other materials produced by the school which they can use together with class notes and revision guides. In addition, all pupils have access to SAM learning through the internet – pupils will be given instructions immediately after half term on how this programme can be used.

In January Year 8 and 9 started to study for the OCR National examination in ICT. This will give all pupils the opportunity to study for a full GCSE equivalent course in the subject. The current Year 8 and 9 will have the opportunity when they choose their options to study ICT further if they so wish.

Easter Revision School

Easter Revision School is open to all Year 11 pupils and will run from Monday 18 April to Wednesday 20 April. A letter giving more detail will be distributed immediately after half term. If your child is in the Year 11 target group it is expected that they will attend. Year 11 will begin study leave on Friday 27 May. After the May half term holiday Year 11 will only be required in school when they have examinations. The official leaving date for Year 11 is the end of June. Results day is on Thursday 25 August.

Uniform

I would like to thank all parents for their co-operation in ensuring that our pupils continue to come to school dressed in the correct uniform. We would like to maintain this very high standard and would ask for parents continuing support with the few remaining specific problems outlined below:

Shirts – these must be long enough to tuck into skirts/trousers not fitted or with darts and should have a top button.

Jewellery/Body Piercing – Apart from a watch 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 – a few boys have adopted a rather short hair style – if pupils wish to have very short hair please ensure it is cut on Razor Setting No 3 or above. Tram lines and extremes of hair colour are not acceptable for school.

Skirts – Plain navy blue, medium weight material, smart uniform type of a practical/appropriate length for moving around school/school type activities (**not too short, too long or with splits**)

Cardigan – navy blue with buttons – **not zipped**

Shoes Black or brown, flat heeled, with laces tied, not trainers or boots (footwear that covers the ankle and above). We seem to have a few pupils wearing plimsolls and boots at the moment – whilst they are no doubt fashionable they are not suitable for school.

Please continue to support us by helping us to maintain this high standard throughout the school year. In particular this is a reminder for parents of Year 11 pupils that they will of course be required to wear their full school uniform until the end of the examination period.

We are holding a uniform sale on Monday 4 July from 5.30 pm.

Electronic Devices

The school policy is that pupils should not bring mobile phones into school, but if they need to in an **emergency**, they should deposit the phone at the school office or with one of the Senior staff on arrival.

Pupils do not need mobile phones in school - if parents need to reach pupils in an emergency or visa versa we always make this possible.

Just a reminder – if a pupil has a mobile phone – it will be confiscated – handed into the office, a blue form completed and five main school detentions given. Parents will be contacted usually by the **Head of Year and the phone will only be returned if contact has been made.**

iPods/Kindles/iPads – the same rules as mobile phones applies – they are expensive pieces of equipment and it is not advisable for them to be brought to school.

Use of pupil photographs

A number of curriculum areas now use digital photography. The images will only be used in school to feedback teaching and learning points or provide presentations to parents. If, however, pupils do appear in press releases or on the school website we would never include pupil details. I will continue to monitor the appropriateness of any article, but would hope parents would not have a problem with their child taking part. If any parent/guardian requires further clarification or has a query please do not hesitate to contact me

Dates for next half term

Monday 28 February	School opens
1 – 7 March	GCSE Examinations
Tuesday 1 March	Year 9 Rewards Trip to XFactor Live, Sheffield
Thursday 3 March	World Book Day
Tuesday 8 March	Snaith School Association Meeting (7 pm)
	New York Parents Evening (6 pm)
Thursday 10 March	Careers Convention (6.30 – 8.30 pm)
Wednesday 16 March	ACE Day
Friday 25 March	Lower School Disco (7.30 – 10 pm)
Tuesday 29 March	Year 9 Parents Evening (4.45 – 7.45 pm)
Friday 8 April	Year 11 Prom
Saturday 9/10 April	Duke of Edinburgh Award practice weekend
Monday 11 April	SSA Bingo
Tuesday 12 April	Year 10 Parents Evening (4.45 – 7.45 pm)
Friday 15 April	School closes
Thursday 28 April – Wednesday 4 May	New York Trip

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

We are again very 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 9.00 am and 3.35 and 4.00 pm. 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 recently had the situation at 3.45 pm, 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 and leaving the school by the wrong entrance leading to problems on Pontefract Road itself.

A reminder also that school is open for pupils from 8.30 am onwards and we would be grateful if parents would not drop their children off before this time.

Royal Wedding

As you are aware the day of the Royal Wedding is during the Easter holidays. The government has introduced legislation to reduce the school year by one day in celebration of this event. School will

therefore close one day early at the end of the summer term on Thursday 21 July at 3.35 pm. I have attached the term dates for 2011-12 for your information.

Facebook/Social Networking sites

We are dealing with an increasing number of incidents in school that are related to Facebook and other social networking sites. We have highlighted the problem in school and all pupils have had some information about keeping themselves safe on the internet. It is however, really important that parents/carers monitor the use of the internet (including Facebook etc) at home. To help parents in this matter you will find some very useful information on the school website

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.

Yours sincerely

J D Pickerill
Headteacher

School Term Dates – 2010 - 2011

School opens	Monday 28 February	School Closes	Friday 15 April
School opens	Wednesday 4 May	School Closes	Friday 27 May
School opens	Monday 6 June	School Closes	Thursday 21 July
Teacher Training Day		Tuesday 3 May 2011	
Additional Day (Royal Wedding)		Friday 22 July 2011	
Teacher Training Day		Monday 25 July 2011	

School Term Dates – 2011 - 2012

School Opens	Tuesday 6 September	School Closes	Thursday 20 October
School Opens	Monday 31 October	School Closes	Tuesday 20 December
School Opens	Thursday 5 January 2012	School Closes	Friday 17 February
School Opens	Monday 27 February	School Closes	Thursday 29 March
School Opens	Tuesday 17 April	School Closes	Friday 1 June
School Opens	Monday 11 June	School Closes	Friday 20 July
Teacher Training Day -		Monday 5 September 2011	
Teacher Training Day -		Friday 21 October 2011	
Teacher Training Day -		Wednesday 4 January 2012	
Teacher Training Day -		Friday 30 March 2012	
Teacher Training Day -		Monday 16 April 2012	
Bank Holiday		Monday 7 May 2012	