



21 July 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

We have arrived at the end of this academic year having been successful in many areas and with promise of greater success to come for all our students.

This has been a year of changes to develop and strengthen teaching so that all our students gain the best possible experience across the curriculum. My staff have also worked tirelessly to improve systems and practice so that the school runs more efficiently and ensures the safety of students, staff and visitors. I have sought opportunities to improve the fabric of the school in small aesthetic ways but also with completion of larger projects, some of which will come to fruition early in the Autumn Term.

My initial focus on taking up the headship of our school was to improve learning and teaching so that all students, whatever their starting points, had the same opportunity for successful progress in learning. The school's Ofsted inspection recognised the rapid improvements that had been put in place to achieve that goal at every key stage. The school is now securely good in all areas and staff are working in a number of established and innovative ways to further develop their practice to support the development of the school as a centre of educational excellence.

The school website has been utilised to share news of school events as they happen and staff are becoming increasingly proficient at Tweeting news as it happens off-site too; change takes a little getting used to. This enables the school to share high quality pictures and news of the girls' busy schedules on the front end of the website rather than tucking them away in a hard to locate newsletter.

Our calendar of next year's planned events, parents' evenings, sporting and extra-curricular activities is ready for publication on the website. I do hope you continue to check it for a wide range of information.

As we end the year we inevitably say goodbye to some students and some members of staff. In both camps our leavers are generally relocating to other parts of the country and we send them all our best wishes for the future.

I am pleased to say we have made some very good staff appointments and I hope you will take opportunities to come in to school and meet with new staff. As a staff body, we recognise and value the importance of the relationships we build with each other and with our students and their families. We may not always get it right but we strive to always improve.

We are looking ahead to Results Days for our GCSE and A Level students and I look forward to writing to you at the start of term with news of the girls' achievements in their Public Exams.

Please remember the uniform changes we notified you of recently and also the expectations around high standards with regard to wearing of make-up, jewellery and skirt length.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your family an enjoyable and restful Summer break from school. For those girls who might find it difficult to fill their day, I cannot recommend reading highly enough; girls who read really do succeed.

Yours sincerely

Violet Walker
Headteacher