

March 27<sup>th</sup> 2009

Dear Parents

Please find enclosed the latest Newsletter (Westbourne World), a letter informing you about ContactPoint, and our J5 and J6 assessments.

### **Staff**

I am pleased to welcome back Abi Aylott from maternity leave next term. Miss Aylott will return as a part time teacher working mainly with her old J2 class.

As already stated in my last letter Mrs Samantha Fairbank (née Michie) takes over from John Dowd and joins us after the Easter break to teach science, maths and ICT in Senior School.

Mr Bunton is returning to New Zealand at the end of this academic year. I would like to thank Mr Bunton for all his hard work over the last year and I know our Senior School climbers will want to thank him personally for his enthusiasm in taking them on their weekly activity to the Foundry.

We are delighted to announce Miss Charlotte Smith will replace Mr Bunton from September 2009. Miss Smith has a wealth of experience and presently teaches in an English school in Germany where she has been responsible for developing English programmes in KS3, 4 and 5. Her passion for drama and theatre will also benefit our pupils. Miss Smith studied at Warwick and Birmingham Universities and also gained a subject mentoring award from Cambridge.

Mrs Wells will start her maternity leave at the end of the Summer term and hopes to return at the end of the Autumn term 2009. I am pleased to confirm Mr Rene Bohan will take over Mrs Well's classes during her absence. Mr Bohan is an English graduate from Leeds University and whilst at Loughborough he gained many different sports coaching awards. Mr Bohan has taught English in several senior schools and has run his own catering business.

Mrs Bornand as you know retires as head of Senior School at the end of this academic year, however, we are fortunate to be able to retain her services as a part-time French teacher. Celebrations for Mr Bunton and Mrs Bornand will be held in the marquee on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> July at the summer concert.

## **Academic**

Well done to those who did so well in the recent Senior School maths challenge, you can read more in the News Letter but a special mention for Tom O'Connor who won the top award with gold. Tom now goes into the next round to represent the school in this national competition.

## **Music**

Well done to all the Junior School musicians who got commendations for their performance in the Birkdale music festival. They include:

- \* Dolly Pratt, Ethan Goodfellow, Emma Kerry, Amy Martindale, Lucy Stern for singing 'This Little Light of Mine'.
- \* Rebecca Fowler, Sophie Kitchin and Zoe Stone for their flute ensemble.
- \* Zoe Stone for her flute solo.
- \* Beth Smart for her clarinet solo

Also well done to all the Junior School choir for singing so well in the Ranmoor Homestart concert.

Amy Martindale (J4) will be joining the Sheffield Independent School's Training Orchestra next term as further extension. She and Catherine Miller (J5) are composing their own songs for next term's musical concert.

Theory classes have moved from one class to three now in order that all children taking part are stretched. Next term sees eight pupils sitting the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Theory Grade 1 examination. There are more pupils than ever taking music to higher levels in Junior School and Senior School. Next term there will be several opportunities for parents to come and listen to our children perform.

Miss Nickson and Mrs Harris have done a marvellous job with these young budding musicians and they can justifiably feel proud of their and the childrens' achievements.

## **Sport**

The U 13's won the 6-a-side football tournament hosted by Westbourne School. Our team topped the league of eight teams winning the tournament for the third year running.

14 pupils from J5 to S10 have signed up to have golf lessons with the professional at Hallamshire Golf Club during April and May. There are also Tennis lessons with a professional coach after half term at Fulwood Tennis Club. Letters can be obtained from the school offices.

## **General**

Congratulations to Adam & Daniel Brooks for passing their bronze level in the Duke of Edinburgh awards.

We are going to conduct a parent survey and will be contacting parents about this at the start of the summer term. Your views are always important to us and feedback helps us to shape the future of the school.

## **Future events**

The FOW ball is to be held on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2009, tickets are available from Mrs Turner/Mrs Fenton.

There are a few remaining places for the Junior School Easter Cookery course. This is running from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Please phone if you are interested.

The sports tour to Malta is full with 60 pupils going on the trip. Please note the departure/return dates have changed to: **Leave school Thursday 22/10/09 @ approx 3pm; return to school Thursday 29/10/09 @ approx 4pm**

All teaching, admin and catering staff have to periodically undergo child protection training. This is next scheduled for Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April (the day before the new term starts), therefore, please do not contact the school on that day.

## **Reminders**

Some pupils have been arriving late for school which makes for a bad start to the day. Almost all of our children arrive promptly and are smartly dressed and I encourage everyone to adhere to these standards.

## **Finally**

We wish Mr Davey, and all those departing on the school ski trip to Les Deux Alpes in France, a safe journey and a great trip.

I look forward to seeing you all again next term (starts Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April) and wish you all a relaxing Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely