

2nd September 2008

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the start of the new academic year and a special warm welcome to all our new families and of course staff.

We have twenty-two new starters in Junior School and a further nineteen in Senior School plus five new staff:

STAFF

Mr Phil Beaumont, Senior School Chemistry, Maths and ICT *

Mr Ian Bunton, Senior School English *

Mrs Carol Longmire, Senior School Learning Support

Miss Helen Cross, Senior School Spanish and French

Ms Angela Bywater, Marketing Manager

(* returning to Westbourne after short spells elsewhere).

Unfortunately, some good things have to come to an end. Mrs Bornand has indicated that this will be her final year as Head of Senior School and I shall shortly be advertising for her replacement. We will of course have an opportunity to celebrate her career at the end of the Summer Term 2009.

CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to Mrs Alison Simpson and Mrs Lynda Whittington and all teachers of last year's Reception class. The OFSTED inspection at the end of last term recognised the quality of education at Westbourne as OUTSTANDING. The inspector admitted they could not actually make any suggestions as to how we could improve. This is indeed fantastic praise considering they see many different schools and can compare early years provision as like for like. A full report can be found on our website: www.westbourneschool.co.uk

Also many congratulations to Mrs Deborah Loasby, Miss Emma Rees, Mrs Deborah Loane and Miss Holly Nickson. The summer school, for J2 - J6 pupils, was a huge success. Creative arts, music, drama, a performance and a BBQ party all made up for an absorbing week.

Mrs Loasby is already planning something similar for food technology in the Easter holiday 2009.

Our S11s returned to collect their GCSE results at the end of the holidays and overall they can be really pleased with the outcome. Twenty-five out of twenty-eight in the cohort managed to pass at least five GCSEs (A* - C grade) which is a fantastic achievement considering we have a mixed ability intake. Heads of department will be looking to scrutinise their results so that we continue to improve and give our pupils the best chance of success.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Westbourne has been open and busy throughout the summer vacation as several works have been completed to enhance our facilities:

- New astro play area in Ashdell House grounds.
- New staff car park behind the coach house to give more space for children to play.
- New roof over the Junior School hall.
- New carpets throughout Junior School.
- New ICT suite in Junior School.
- New flooring in dining room.
- New window panels in all doors in Junior School.

We have linked up with Endcliffe Nursery which is owned by Westbourne Governor, Mrs Stephanie Connelly. A walking bus for students with siblings at Endcliffe Nursery will begin in January 2009. This will enable families to make a single drop off for younger children at the nursery and staff will walk their older siblings to Westbourne. The same will happen for a return journey so that families with children attending the nursery and Westbourne will benefit from this arrangement.

The school goes from strength to strength and we look forward to another fantastic year where Westbourne students flourish and develop into well rounded human beings

Reminders:

- The Open morning will be held on Saturday, 11th October 2008 between 10.00am and 12.00 noon. Please invite your friends and families to come along.
- J3 – S11 have assessments to bring home on 24th October 2008. Pupils going on the Barcelona trip will receive theirs on return.
- Please note the J1 – J6 parents evening is Tuesday, 11th September as stated in the school calendar.
- All dates for school vacations are given in advance so that parents may plan holidays appropriately. I look forward to seeing your children prosper over the next academic year and to meeting you once again at the many functions we are holding. Please check the calendar for details. Any requests for an authorised absence for a special family arrangement must be made in writing to the Headmaster. All other requests, eg. orthodontists/doctor's appointments/off games etc. should be made in writing to the form tutor. (All children are expected to be in school during term time.)