

Our Ref: BSN/KON

September 2015

**ALL PARENTS**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families had an enjoyable summer (such as it was). I wanted to write to you on the first week back to keep you informed of everything that has happened in school over the summer and to reiterate our plans for the coming year.

One of the most important days of the school calendar actually occurs when the pupils are not at school. The penultimate Thursday in August is when Secondary schools up and down the country receive their GCSE results. It is a very nervous time for everyone concerned.

This year saw our school achieve its best ever results. Every school across the country seems to say this each year, whether it is accurate or not. Happily for us, this year, it is true. We saw the percentage of pupils achieving 5 A\* - C with English and Maths increase by 10% to 58%. This was the biggest increase in Dudley and one of the highest in the Midlands. It places us (provisionally) as the 7<sup>th</sup> highest performing school in our Local Authority (the best we have ever achieved). This is very significant if you take into consideration that 3 years ago we were 21<sup>st</sup> and last.

Other notable successes include doubling the number of A\*/A grades and record results in English, Maths, Science, ICT, PE, French, Music, Art, RE, Biology, Chemistry, Food Technology, Graphics and Physics. We are delighted for our pupils but we know we can and must do better. You have my word that every day this year we will be working to make sure each individual has the maximum opportunity to achieve as much as possible.

Some of our main priorities this year will include:

- ✓ further improvements to the quality of teaching and learning;
- ✓ the introduction of a new way of reporting progress and attainment to parents and carers;
- ✓ working with parents and carers to boost any child who has less than 95% attendance;
- ✓ further work on improving behaviour with a particular focus on low level disruption in lessons that slows down the pace of learning;
- ✓ finding new ways to secure resources to continue improving our school environment so that our children have access to the very best facilities;
- ✓ new and exciting extra-curricular activities including Fencing and Archery.

This academic year promises much. There will no doubt be ups and downs, but please understand that we have a very clear vision of where we want to take the school and with everyone's continuing support we will get there.

As always many thanks for your support.

Yours sincerely

**Mr B A Stitchman**  
**Head Teacher**