

30th June 2009

Dear Parents

As the end of the Summer term approaches, I would like to draw some important information to your attention.

In the next academic year, the year teams will be as follows:

	Assistant Year Leader	Year Leader	Leadership Team
Year 7	Miss A Wozniczko	Miss R Vaughan	Mr K Baker
Year 8	Mrs S Laux	Mrs M Pearce (now Mrs Murray)	Mr N Mann
Year 9	Mrs E Henderson	Mr P Caplen	Mr B Bond
Year 10	Ms X Hookings	Mrs F Maguire	Miss E Grainger
Year 11	Miss L Harding	Miss E Hudsmith	Mrs P Wood

If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the above staff as of September. For the rest of this academic year, until July 22nd, there have been no changes apart from Mrs Murray who has already started working with the current Year 7 pupils in readiness for when they go up to Year 8. (She will be called Mrs Pearce in September).

I would like to remind all parents that the school has a disability equality plan and accessibility plan. If you/your child has any difficulties in accessing the school building, please contact us and we will ensure we help to overcome the problem.

In these difficult financial times, I would also like to encourage parents who are eligible, to apply for a free school meal for their child. The school meal token is worth £1.80 a day and can be spent on anything in the school refectory. Even if your child does not choose to take a meal in school, completing the Free School Meal application form could lead to possible other benefits. I attach a form, which I would very much like you to fill in if appropriate. If you are not sure if you can apply for a school meal, please contact your child's Assistant Year Leader, and we will advise you. We are also more than happy to provide help with completing the form if required.

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At Woodlands, as part of our quest for improving standards, we are launching a new Food and Packed Lunch Policy. Our food provider, Eden Foods, already produces and serves food that is in keeping with current government guidelines to ensure that it is healthy and nutritious. We must now begin to encourage the students to bring more nutritious food into school with them. Parents are asked to support this by ensuring that their children bring a packed lunch with them that is based on complex carbohydrates like bread, preferably wholemeal, pasta or rice. Ideally children should bring fruit or raw vegetables with them for snacks and as part of their lunch. Crisps and sweets are not a good sources of energy and lead to tooth decay as well as obesity problems later.

We will be discouraging bringing fizzy drinks into school and encouraging students to drink water and to bring a bottle of water with them to school. Students will also be encouraged to have a bottle of water with them during classes as good hydration improves learning. The consumption of sugary foods and drinks leads to students being unsettled in class and this distracts them and others from learning.

We will be banning any energy drinks from the school environment. These are not a good option for students and lead to poor behaviour again reducing optimum learning. These types of drinks also contain substances that can harm your children with continued use.

As part of healthy eating children also need to be encouraged to eat a healthy breakfast before they come to school. A bowl of whole-wheat cereal, toast and butter or even a banana is essential to give the body energy and improve learning.

As you are aware, last year we introduced the new behaviour management policy. I am pleased to tell you that the consistent use of the policy is improving standards of behaviour in school. The average number of Emergency Call Outs (when a senior member of staff is called to a lesson) has dropped by 62% compared to before the policy was introduced. Similarly, exclusions from school have dropped by 70%. This means that the climate for learning in school has improved drastically and this is fundamental to helping your child fulfil their potential.

Attendance at school continues to be an area we need to improve. If your child is not at school, they cannot learn. I would therefore urge you not to take family holidays or book non-urgent medical appointments during the school day. We finish at 2.45 pm (earlier on Mondays) and I would be very grateful if appointments could be made after the end of the school day. Holidays taken in term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. We have seen a big drop in the number of pupils who are 'persistently absent' from school (this means that they have missed more than 32 school days), but there are still far too many children in this category and we will be working very hard to improve this situation still further.

Important Dates

- Monday July 6th - Inset Day. Pupils should not attend school.
- Friday July 10th - Science and Engineering Day
- Tuesday July 14th - Sports Day
- Monday July 20th - Awards Evening (invitations will be issued to Award winners)
- Wednesday July 22nd - End of school year at 12.40 pm
- Thursday September 3rd - Inset Day. Pupils should not attend school.
- Friday September 4th - 8.30 am - new year 7 only
11.30 am - all pupils should attend

Finally, in order to ease communications, we would very much like to be able to send **non-urgent** information to parents by email, and if you are happy for us to send you non-urgent information in this way, please complete the slip below and return it to your child's tutor as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your continued support as we aim to maintain high standards of uniform, behaviour and learning for the rest of this academic year.

Yours sincerely



Joanna Anslow
Headteacher

Please return this form to your child's tutor.

Child's name _____

Tutor Group _____

I am happy for the school to send me non-urgent information by email. My email address is:

Signed: _____