

19th December 2008

Dear Parents

First, my thanks to all of you for supporting the many events which have marked the past term. All of the major occasions of the Autumn Term have been well attended, and feedback suggests that they have been both enjoyed and appreciated. The Open Morning, Senior Awards Evening, the Junior School production and the end of term carol services were all busy, very polished and a wonderful showcase of our amazing students.

These events, together with the House Plays, the Fashion Show, the Interact Charter Night, the Boarders' Candlelight Service and dinner, and the Christmas is Coming Concert all showed the students' talents as well as their teamwork and organisational skills. I applaud the commitment and dedication of all involved.

I hope that parents of students in Lower Four, Lower Five, Middle Five and Upper Six were pleased with the reports sent out before the end of term. Please do send in your pink slips with your much valued comments. Lower Six parents will find Tracking Reports enclosed with this mailing. Junior School parents will read in the enclosed letters of a change to our reporting procedures in the New Year. I am very much looking forward to attending the Year Six Parents' Evenings and being able to discuss individuals' performance on the Entrance Process.

There are two more important enclosures for relevant parties in this mailing. For our public examination candidates, including Upper Five who return to Mock Examinations, there is a revision aid. I hope it will be of value and used wisely!

It is some time since detailed information was sent to parents about our Rewards and Sanctions procedures. I have enclosed a copy of our Code of Conduct for all Year Five to Upper Five parents; I thought this would interest the parents of the older Junior School girls as well as Senior parents.

Copies of this document, and indeed of all the School Policies of direct interest to parents, will be available as downloads from our website which is to be launched at the start of the new year. I urge you all to visit the new site and to pass to us any comments you may have about it so that we can continue to develop a website that meets the needs of all in the school community. At this point I would like to say an enormous thank you to Simon Crisp, Sharon Shove and, above all, to Jane Craggs, who have worked tirelessly on this project in recent weeks.

Towards the end of term our Kitchen was awarded 5 stars by the area authorities: a thoroughly deserved accolade. News of the many other successes, individual, team and whole school, have been reported in the local press and will feature in Inside Focus which I hope you will enjoy reading in January. Notable amongst these are Laurence Whiteley (Lower Six) who won the Local Heroes Award in a recent ceremony after battling cancer and emerging as a potential member of the 2012 Paralympic Swimming Team, and Charlotte Hindmoor (Middle Five) who was voted Darlington's Young Achiever of the Year for her outstanding success in golf.

Once again my thanks for all your generous support, for the wonderful cards and gifts I shall enjoy over Christmas, and my very warmest wishes for the season.

To you all, health and happiness in 2009.

Yours sincerely



M Green (Miss)
Head