



July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

The end of another school year is fast approaching and the school has enjoyed another good year, full of opportunities and challenges for staff and students alike. We began back in September with a visit from Ofsted which acknowledged the huge steps forward already taken in school improvement, with good judgements for both leadership and management and personal development, behaviour and welfare of students. We have worked hard to build on the achievements Ofsted noted, and our focus has been to keep raising the bar for teaching and learning; we are confident that the students will produce good results this summer.

We are also delighted that, following a positive consultation response, Beacon Hill and Solway will on September 1st form the Cumbria Futures Federation. Although both schools remain separate entities, we will continue to work closely together in a collaboration which has over the past year seen many advantages for students and staff across both schools. We are looking forward to taking the Federation forward, increasingly reaping the benefits of sharing good practice and resources which allow us to offer more opportunities to our students, both inside the classroom and out.

Amongst the many highlights for the students this year, surely the most exciting is the Bike Challenge. Bigger and better than ever, the confidence of the Bike Club continues to grow and is recognised on an ever widening stage across Cumbria. This year, staff and students from Beacon Hill and Solway take on the mammoth challenge of cycling from Pisa to Rome; the team leaves later this week and we wish them well and look forward to hearing about their experiences on their return - keep an eye on Facebook for regular updates concerning pedalling, pizza and (we hope) no punctures...

It is with frustration and disappointment however that the school has also been the victim of two arson attacks in recent weeks; first the changing rooms and recently the astro-turf were set alight by mindless vandals. The school is working closely with the police and town council to address such instances of anti-social behaviour and we would ask for your support in this. Our students suffer when the school is attacked in this way and it is hard to understand the mindset of those who choose to wreck facilities and property like this.

Nonetheless, such people are in the minority, and the vast majority of our students continue to contribute to the community and the school, enthusiastically taking part in charity events to raise money, joining in Colour Runs and Race for Life, Unity days promoting understanding of different beliefs, grass-track racing, sports leaders helping our partnership primaries with sports events, cultural trips to Edinburgh, Year 11s organising their own very successful Prom, Sikh Day, Whinlatter mountain bike trips, National Winners of the Big Pedal Day Challenge, visits to Universities, Gen2, NDA Cyber Security and National College for Nuclear, Reflection Rooms, working with partner providers including Upcycle, where the students have produced a fantastic planter for Aspatria Cumbria in Bloom competition... to mention but a few of the events students have got involved with this year - all of which I hope give you a taste of our active, busy, and successful school.

This year, we have a summer holiday reading challenge for all the students; send in to Facebook a photo of a parent, carer or child reading a book in an unusual place (there will soon be examples on Facebook to inspire you) - the more unusual the better! An enormous prize will be given to the most inventive, imaginative and interesting entry, so get reading!

On a practical note, can I remind you of the need for our students to look smart in uniform; blue polo shirts and school jumpers; tailored black trousers (please, no tight fitting leggings or jeans are acceptable), black shoes (not trainers) plus PE kit. We expect them to come to school looking business like, ready to learn and we will challenge any who are not in proper uniform or without equipment. Having said that, on Wednesday England take on Croatia in the semi-finals of the World Cup - something that has not happened in the life time of any of our students (and even some of the staff...). To celebrate, if students wish to wear England shirts to school to support the team, they are welcome to do so on this occasion.

Also, times of the school day are changing; you will remember the consultation that happened before Easter. Below is a reminder of the new times:

08.45 - 09.10	REGISTRATION & STUDENT INTERVENTION
09.10 - 09.55	LESSON 1
09.55 - 10.40	LESSON 2
10.40 - 10.55	BREAK
10.55 - 11.40	LESSON 3
11.40 - 12.25	LESSON 4
12.25 - 13.05	LUNCH
13.05 - 13.10	REGISTRATION
13.10 - 13.55	LESSON 5
13.55 - 14.40	LESSON 6
14.40 - 15.25	LESSON 7

Finally, we hope that you enjoy a peaceful, safe summer holiday, and look forward to welcoming you all back in September for another successful year. Please remember we finish early on Friday 20th July at 12:30 and return on Tuesday 4th September.

Please do contact myself or Deputy Head Mr Gee at school should you have any queries or concerns.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Judith Schafer

Executive Headteacher