

July 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of another busy year I am writing with some important updates and reminders.

As you will be aware, we had a monitoring visit from Ofsted in May, which resulted in a glowing inspection letter which confirmed that the school is rapidly improving and that leaders are taking effective action to ensure a Good judgement at our next full inspection, which is likely to be at some point between October and May 2020. The inspectors were particularly interested in and complimentary about our new curriculum, which is coming to the end of its first year. LLMAC (Local Labour Market Aligned Curriculum), the Cumbria Award and the very successful Industry Projects the students have followed have been very well received by all employers and businesses involved, and they have all spoken about how well our students have engaged with them. We are looking forward to more exciting developments in September.

This September also sees the introduction of our new, smart, business like uniform, chosen by the students. A reminder of the raised expectations of the school regarding uniform are on the school website; can I emphasise that we are expecting students to wear black school shoes (trainers will not be accepted), and tailored trousers or skirts (not tight-fitting trousers, joggers or leggings). I know the students are looking forward to wearing their new shirts, ties and blazers next term; I am delighted this student led initiative is being put into place. I would also like to remind you that facial piercings (including tongues), nail varnish and jewellery are not allowed; hair should be natural colours, and make-up must be appropriately discrete for school.

This term, students also asked us to help reduce the amount of litter on the school site. If we are to have smart students, we also need a well looked after environment. Students help school staff pick up litter every day. We are keen to reduce the amount of litter dropped, and at the same time to encourage healthy eating. School policy is that sweets, crisps, biscuits, chocolate, fizzy drinks and energy drinks are not allowed, and we will be enforcing this once again next term. School lunches are cooked on the premises and adhere to the nutritional guidelines published by the DfE; I have included a week's sample menus for your information. The canteen staff are also pleased to cater for individual needs if your child has particular likes or dislikes, and the majority of students and staff eat school meals in the canteen. Healthy snacks are also available at break. If however your child wishes to bring a packed lunch to school, please make sure that it does not contain any of the items prohibited by school. I have also attached some leaflets which give alarming statistics about the unhealthy content of typical lunchboxes, alongside guidance on providing your child with a healthy lunch. Please try and ensure that your child's packed lunch meets the good standards laid out here.

Our school environment is also being improved with support from Cumbria County Council who are making a considerable investment in the fabric of the building. You may be aware that the top floor has been out of action for several weeks; this is to allow contractors to replace all the electrical systems and IT wiring in all classrooms. The first floor and technical block will also be worked on over the summer; the work will continue in the summer of 2020 with refurbishment of the science and PE blocks. We are very pleased that the county council have invested in Beacon Hill and we are looking forward to much improved IT systems in September.

Contractors will be working on site all over the holidays and will not be in a position to release many first and second floor classrooms back to us until August 30<sup>th</sup>, just before the beginning of term. Although site staff are working hard to minimise the inevitable disruption, we have agreed with the council that we will have an additional Inset day on Wednesday September 4<sup>th</sup> in order to give staff time to move back into classrooms and prepare to teach. Students' first day back at Beacon Hill next term will therefore be Thursday September 5<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking forward to celebrating students' success at GCSE in the summer, and to beginning a new term with a new uniform, newly refurbished classrooms and renewed energy for staff and students after a well-earned summer break. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mr Gee at school should you have any questions.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you all again on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Schafer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Ms J Schafer

Executive Headteacher