

September 2011

Dear Parents

I hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer and that the new school year has begun well for all. Here are some important dates and other items of information. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office or your child's form tutor if you require any clarification.

**1. INSET Days**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011 (apologies - this was omitted from the calendar card issued to pupils)

The school will be closed to all pupils on these days as we undertake joint training with colleagues from King Edward VI on the October date and with Nether Stowe in November.

**2. Year 6 Open Evening: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011**

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October we are holding our annual Open Evening for parents of pupils currently in their final year of primary school and who are in the process of selecting a secondary school for their child.

In order to allow sufficient time for preparations for the evening we shall continue our custom of finishing school early on that day.

Morning school will run exactly as normal and lunch will begin at the usual time of 12.35pm. The lunch break will end at 1.15pm, at which time pupils will report to their tutor rooms for registration, prior to leaving at 1.30pm.

School buses and taxis have been ordered for 1.30pm and you are asked to make arrangements for the early return home of your child. However, we will be able to supervise pupils in school until 3.25pm if this creates difficulties for you. Please let your child's tutor know if this is the case.

**3. Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012 and public examinations**

To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee an additional bank holiday has been declared on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012. As this falls during the half-term holiday, Staffordshire County Council have taken the decision to close all schools on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June, effectively beginning the half-term holiday a day early.

However, this day falls in the public examination schedule and the exam boards intend to use it for some GCSE and A-level examinations.

Therefore can parents of students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 please be aware that there may be public examinations taking place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012. The school will be open on that day just for those students with examinations.

#### **4. Examination Results Summer 2011**

As you may well have seen from the local press, Friary students were once again successful at GCSE and A Level. 48% of all grades at A-level achieved by year 13 students were at grades A\*-B. In a year when students were under particular pressure to make the grades required for university entrance it was a particular pleasure to see so many happy faces on results day. At Key Stage 4 the picture was similarly pleasing. With 80% of students achieving 5 or more grades at A\*-C and 62% achieving 5 or more grades at A\*-C including English and Maths, the results were the highest ever recorded by the school.

#### **5. Year 7 Dedication Service**

Our annual service will take place at the cathedral on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 2.15pm. Letters of invitation to Year 7 parents are being sent out via the pupils. If you are a Year 7 parent and do not receive one then please get in touch with your child's form tutor.

#### **6. Cars on site**

Please do not drive onto the school site or front apron when dropping pupils off in the morning or collecting them in the afternoon. The front of school is very busy at these times with school buses coming and going and pupils on foot. The safety of pupils is paramount and I am grateful to those of you who park on Eastern Avenue as requested.

#### **7. Return of text books (Year 8 and above)**

Please help us to keep costs down by checking with your sons and daughters that they do not have any text books from previous years that need returning. If you should find some then these can be handed in by pupils to the school office (with no questions asked!)

#### **8. Home learning in Years 7-9**

In my last newsletter I explained how we would trial a new approach to homework with Years 7, 8 and 9 this term. Each week pupils are being set a short task in maths and modern languages as usual, plus an extended task in one other subject - according to the schedule published on the website. The aim is to improve the quality of independent learning.

We are keen to receive parents' views on the initiative: please contact me on [headteacher@friary.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@friary.staffs.sch.uk) if you have any feedback, or write to the school FAO Headteacher.

Can I also remind parents that you are also invited to contact me at this address if homework in any year group is not marked and returned within two weeks of its submission.

#### **9. Sixth Form Information Evening**

Please note that in a change from the date originally published, this will be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011. More details will be sent to Year 11 parents and pupils closer to the date.

Yours in partnership



David Lister  
Headteacher