June 2017

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Dear Parents

As I came into work at the start of this week, I was struck by the sheer level of activity going on that could be observed from my car. Despite it being just 7.00am, I was passing numerous people engaged in productive endeavours; the activity of the farmers with herds being released from milking, grass cutting, the builders at the Newsagents getting papers as they set off for site, coaches leaving for the school runs and the workers at the Spar processing a delivery, are a few things to mention seen on just one journey.

It made me think, as the sun was shining brightly and the countryside was resplendent in its vibrant growth, that it actually felt a little like a scene from a postcard. Many people think that the Summer term is in someway less important than others as once exams pass, the students are less engaged and indeed the school itself winds down. They think of the postcard image and believe that somehow a more relaxed mentality prevades schools. I would contend the reverse is actually true and I hope on reading this bulletin you will see that school is far from winding down.

Our policy is that we will be teaching purposeful material and content up to the very last day of term and every day is vital for developing the young minds of our students. The follow-up to exams and recognising students’ areas for development highlighted by these is essential in helping them take the next steps towards mastering subjects to the highest level they can. In Year 10, GCSE work continues and Year 12 have returned to start their A level courses after their AS exams. Across the school, while it is hot and breaks and lunchtimes are spent outside, students are learning and making the progress that they should be. That said, much enrichment of the core academic curriculum is taking place and I hope what follows gives you a taste of the variety of experiences that our students are fortunate to have the opportunity to benefit from; as well as giving you some information pertinent to the start of their next academic year:

**Residential Experiences**

One aspect of our school that allows our students to have both a rounded and fuller education beyond the taught curriculum is the prevalence of residential trips they have access to. We are always mindful of making sure that every year group has the option of a wide variety of experiences as they progress through the school. I am also extremely grateful to the staff who give up their time to go on these excursions; receiving no reward other than seeing students flourish in different settings.

- **Year 7 French Trip** – 90 students will be on the annual French Trip to Paris in the last week of term, practising their language skills as well as experiencing the culture and sights.
- **Performing Arts – Disney Trip** – A group of Year 10 Performing Arts students will also be close by, in fact they are working at Disney doing workshops and performing.
- **Taiwan** – A group from Year 9 have been and returned from Taiwan. They had a range of experiences and all thoroughly enjoyed their recent visit.
• **Tanzania** – As is the way with the two year cycle of our Tanzanian exchange, we welcome our guests from Uru here in late June. They will be engaged in various activities with their exchange hosts and as always will bring something extra special to school while they are visiting.

• **Iona** – Year 10 and Year 12 RE students will be visiting Iona to support their understanding of what they are studying in their course.

• **Arran** – Year 12 will be engaged in their field work at a centre on Arran. This is an essential trip so that they understand the skills required to conduct effective field studies.

• **Duke of Edinburgh** – Several expeditions have already taken place and further Silver and Gold expeditions are due this half term. The scheme is highly successful at the school with ever increasing numbers taking part.

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**Primary School Work**

As well as supporting our own students we do much work as a school in partnership with our local feeder schools. This ranges from taster days for Year 5 to a multitude of events. This half term will see primary schools visiting William Howard to take part in a variety of activities including:

• **Maths Master Classes**
  Aimed at the brightest and those who need challenging in their Maths. The classes are put on for local primary students to be stretched and enthused by our staff. It is work that we are also doing for the first time this year with Yewdale as part of the CE Trust.

• **English Booster Classes**
  We are working with Longtown Primary, also part of CE Trust, to provide a series of English Booster sessions for Year 6, so that they are prepared for the curriculum here at William Howard. This is something, if successful we aim to roll out wider next year.

• **Primary Sports**
  One of the main areas of our work with the Primary schools, which is led by Miss Billet is in a sporting arena. This half term we will host a Primary Rounders competition, athletics as well as a Transition Sports Day, organised by Mr Ashton at Warwick Bridge. These events afford great opportunities to our students as well, with many acting as Sports Leaders helping with officiating and the smooth running of the sessions.

• **Primary Transition Day**
  The annual transition day takes place on Monday, 3 July. It will be exciting to see the full future Year 7 group in school, all 270 of them. They will take part in a variety of lessons, meet their new Year 7 tutor groups, as well as the Year 8’s, who will also be in their forms. It is a day to start thinking about how they will meet our expectations next year and ensuring that they are growing ever more confident that their start at the school will be a successful one.

• **Primary Music Week**
  Mr Verry and Mr Wood, along with the wider team are very much looking forward to hosting the music week. This gives primary students the opportunity to focus solely on music for a week, stretching and challenging themselves. They work together with our own students to perform a concert at the end of the week, which I am sure will be something they can certainly be proud of.
Information for September 2017

Schools are odd places in that we plan for next year, long before we have finished this one. As such there are changes taking place that it is worthwhile communicating now to you all.

Directors of Learning/Pastoral Teams
There are some changes to the Directors of Learning for next year as we move to the new Transition Year Groups. We are also aiming for the Directors of Learning in the year groups above Year 7 and Year 8, to follow their year groups through to Year 11, very much like the Student Managers currently do.

Year 7 Director of Learning: Mr Anderson  
Student Manager: Mrs McGahan
Year 8 Director of Learning: Miss Lee  
Student Manager: Mrs Jones
Year 9 Director of Learning: Ms Ledger  
Student Manager: Mrs Mingotti
Year 10 Director of Learning: Mr Mothersdale  
Student Manager: Miss Elliot
Year 11 Director of Learning: Miss Carruthers  
Student Manager: Mrs Wood

Tutor Groups
As we have previously communicated Year 7 and Year 8 will be in transition tutor groups, made up roughly of equal numbers of students from each year. This is an exciting development that will give greater responsibility to Year 8 while allowing students in Year 7 to have a smooth transition.

In general across the school we are also moving to a system where tutors register, wherever possible, in their teaching rooms. This means that some tutor groups will change their tutors for next year, even though that member of staff is still employed at the school. In particular the groups that will see their tutors change will be:

8SCL – will become 9MMC with Mrs McMurdo
8AOC – will become 9LMT with Mrs Trickett and Ms Balmer
8HCL – will become 9NMU with Ms Muzio
8KSH – will become 9JLE with Miss Leighton
8CDI – will become 9MMS with Miss Serrechia
8ELS – will become 9MHU with Mr Humble
9YD – will become 10JCA with Mr Carlin
9EJA – will become 10IMF with Mrs Forrester
9RJP – will become 10LAS with Ms Stewart
9DAT – will become 10CRA with Mr Anders
9MMS – will become 10TLS with Mrs Sullivan
9SJA – will become 10LGA with Mrs Garner
10IMF – will become 11EMC with Miss McKenna
10GG – will become 11YDI with Mrs Dixon
10JL – will become 11RBI with Miss Billet
10LGA – will become 11RDA with Mr Davies

All the other tutor groups will remain with their current tutors. It is never ideal moving tutors as the idea is that they remain constant whenever it is possible and that will be the guiding factor in coming years.

Timetable
The timetable in Years 7 to 10 will be split into two equal halves of the year group, X and Y. Both sides of a year group will be equal in ability and therefore sets across the halves of the year will be parallel e.g. in Maths 10X1 will be the same ability profile that 10Y1 will be. The sets will work in the main independently of each other with students in different sets for say English and Maths. The exact details of settings in each year group will be sent to parents in the new academic year.

A major change in the timetable will be the renaming of Science to lessons in Physics, Biology and Chemistry from Year 7 onwards. This is being done as we are moving to the aspiration that all
students will do Triple Science long term within the school and to ensure that students understand more completely the distinction between the separate sciences.

Transport Application Deadlines
The deadline for applying to the school for bus routes that we run from the Carlisle area has now passed. It is imperative that if you haven’t already applied you contact the school with urgency as we are in the process of procuring the buses and we will be doing so on the known levels for demand. I would remind parents that any transport balance must be paid in full, for those not paying by direct debit, before Tuesday, 1 August. If any outstanding balances remain we will not be able to offer a student a place on the bus route next year as we simply do not have the funds to cover non-payment.

County Council Transport applications for Year 12 and Year 13 have now been processed and we are awaiting the response from the Transport Team as to whether or not allocations of seats have been possible under the Spare Seat Capacity scheme. All school Transport applications for the County Council need to be received by Friday, 30 June in order to guarantee a place on a route next year for any student starting at the school in September 2017. Please see the School Transport website for further details via the following link: www.cumbria.gov.uk/schooltransport.

New Uniform
The sizing of the current Year 7 to 9 students for the new elements of the uniform from September will take place on Thursday, 29 June 2017 and Friday, 30 June 2017. You have received a separate letter informing you about this and how the uniform will be collected in the Summer. There is a copy of the letter on the school website if you have misplaced the original one. It is important that all students arrive to their sizing with the provisional order information as requested.

ParentPay
I would encourage all parents to regularly check their ParentPay accounts to ensure that any transactions are what they would expect them to be. Errors on occasions have been identified and these are best corrected in as timely a manner as possible on the rare instances they occur. Any balances for catering etc will automatically roll through until September, unless a request is made directly to Caterlink at the school for a refund of any monies held against a student.

Holidays in Term Time
I am ever conscious of the upset caused when we have no choice but to decline to authorise holidays during term time. I must point out that the school set this years dates some 18 months ago and they do not match exactly the Local Authority published term dates. In particular our students return to school two days later than most schools in September and we break up for Christmas three days later, the differences caused by our INSET days being at different times to those of most other Local Authority schools. I have listed next year’s term dates to help you plan your holidays:

Autumn Term:
Start: Wednesday 6th September 2017
Half-term: Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October 2017
End: Wednesday 20th December 2017

Spring Term:
Start: Thursday 4th January 2018
Half-term: Monday 12th – Friday 16th February 2018
INSET Day: Monday 19th February
End: Thursday 29th March 2018

Summer Term:
Start: Monday 16th April 2018
Half-term: Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June 2018
End: Friday 20th July 2018

Holiday from school can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. This does cause some confusion but it is fair to say that if a holiday has been booked where the parent has the ability to book leave during normal holidays, or it is to attend an event that is taking place that could have
been arranged at a different time, it is highly unlikely to be authorised. Holidays that would be authorised would include leave of a parent from a deployed unit in the military, or other instances where a holiday cannot under any circumstances be arranged at a different time. If a student does not have a good attendance record e.g. it is not 95% or above it is highly unlikely that a holiday would be authorised in any circumstances. If a student’s attendance falls below 90% as a result of a holiday request, the normal procedure would be for the school to take formal action e.g. a fine.

The school is certainly remaining a vibrant and busy place. The Summer term in many ways being the busiest of all. That is what makes the school such a rewarding place to be and one I hope that is enjoyable for students to attend. As always I would like to thank all parents for their support and encouragement of the students over this term.

Yours sincerely

Mr Chris McAree
Headteacher
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During the Summer term a group of Year 12 students are working on a pilot project with Pirelli looking at a different approach to work experience. This project has been organised through our Careers and Enterprise Adviser who has worked closely with us during this academic year.

The real life project with Pirelli is ‘Intuitive ways in which Pirelli could recycle end of life tyres’. Factors the students will be asked to consider include ‘green’ being environmentally friendly, potentially hazardous materials, costings, internal handling (plant/machinery/man power). At the end of the project there will be a presentation for those taking part and a certificate stating they took part in this project for work experience, which can be used in University or Apprenticeship interviews.

During My Money Week, students have taken part in a competition to design a new logo for the Young Savers Accounts in the Cumberland Building Society. There are some fantastic entries and they will be judged at the beginning of July by the Cumberland. The winning designs will be displayed in the local branch and on our website. The winner from William Howard School will receive £100.00 Junior ISA and if the overall winner is from William Howard across all Cumbria Education Trust schools, they will win an additional £250.00 Junior ISA. This is funded through prize monies awarded to Mrs Hill as Financial Education Teacher of the Year in 2015. Last year students designed a bank note in association with the designer from the Bank of England and Innovia Security as the My Money Week competition.

Some of our Year 11 students are looking forward to attending National Citizen Scheme (NCS) in July, this is run locally and involves team building challenges, employment and budgeting skills. UCAS recommends students include NCS in their personal statement, as they learn the skills employers value.

Year 10 students are taking part in Work Experience during the last week of term and to prepare for this we are offering an Employability Skills morning on Thursday, 6th July where students will attend workshops including personal presentation and employability skills, as well as attending a mock interview with a local employer.