Dear Parents

As usual at the start of a school year, I have the pleasure of introducing and welcoming several new members of staff. Jonathan Butcher joins us as Head of Science and his team includes two new teachers, Johanna Cerisier and Jacqui Davis, Martin Burke, a graduate teacher trainee, and Linda Shaw, laboratory technician. We hope that our commitment to developments in science will bear fruit in a successful bid for specialist status. Our commitment to all areas of the curriculum remains total, despite having had to identify a subject area, Science and Mathematics, for special outreach, and we are delighted that Sally Lawson has joined us as Second in English, together with department colleagues Sarah Astley and Lauren Amery. We hope that all these teachers, and Corey Archer, who has joined the Technology department, will have an enjoyable and successful time as part of our school community.

The school was given a huge academic boost by the Advanced Level results this year, and several students deserve special mention and congratulations. James Sutherland achieved four “A” grades, winning his place at Queens College, Oxford, and Mark Hills (5) and Jason Farren (4) also achieved grade “A” in all of their A Levels. There is not space to mention all the students who contributed to the record total of 27 “A” grades at Advanced Level.

Following GCSE successes, seventy-five students have enrolled for AS Level courses in Year 12, giving us the largest Sixth Form for some years and providing encouragement for the future. Full details of all results will be published in the Governors’ Annual Report to parents in October, prior to the Annual Meeting on Thursday, 13 November.

I hope parents will find time to talk with their sons about safety in and around school. We have a perennial problem with parents parking near the school and boys ignoring the rules of the road as they enter and leave the site, but we also have the problem that building work on the new fitness suite is not yet finished and we have to keep the boys away from builders’ equipment and materials that they find fascinating.

Some important dates:-

**Thursday, 18 September**
- BCG Heaf Tests for Y9 pupils.

**Monday, 22 September**
- Training Day for Staff. School closed to pupils.
- Open Evening for Prospective Y7 Pupils and Parents: 7.00 to 9.00 pm.

**Tuesday, 23 September**
- Open Morning for Prospective Y7 Pupils and Parents: 9.00 to 11.00 am.

**Thursday, 25 September**
- BCG Immunisations for Y9 pupils.

**Wednesday, 1 October**
- Photographs for Y7, 9 and 11 pupils and new pupils.

**Friday, 3 October**
- Jeans for Genes non-uniform day.
- October Newsletter issued.

**Monday, 6 October**
- SEN Clinic.

**Mon, 27, to Fri, 31 October**
- HALF-TERM HOLIDAY.

Newsletters will be published on the first Friday of each month for the rest of the school year. Please look out for the regular green papers, with useful information that is also published on the school website.

Yours sincerely

Ian Sonley
Headmaster