

# DURHAM HIGH SCHOOL *for* GIRLS

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September 2009

Dear Parents

I do hope you all have had a restful and enjoyable holiday. It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone back at the start of the new term.

Very many congratulations to last year's Year 11 and Upper Sixth as we begin the academic year with another set of excellent examination results. At A level 50% of all entries achieved Grade A and a third of the year group obtained at least three grade As at A level. At GCSE 60% of entries obtained A\* and A and a third of the year group obtained at least 9 As and A\*s. More importantly, virtually every girl obtained a place at a University of her choice.

## Staff News

We welcome a number of new staff this year. Mr David Smith is our new Head of History. Mr Chris Scorer has been appointed as teacher in charge of Business Studies and Economics. We welcome Ms Viv Aves to the Science Department, Mrs Karen Breckon to the PE Department, Ms Genevieve Colon, to the Foreign Languages Department and Ms Deborah Metcalfe joins the Psychology Department as a part time member of staff.

You will be very sorry to hear that Mr Stone is still unwell and Mrs Lathan (Aunty Janet) is recovering after a successful operation for breast cancer. Mr Tony Meacham and Mr Norman Raine are covering for Mr Stone and Mrs Mary Padgett for Mrs Lathan.

## Uniform

We are continuing our efforts to maintain the standards and appearance of the girls in uniform throughout the school. May I take this opportunity of reminding Senior House parents that all girls in Years 7-11 are expected to arrive at school in blazers and will be expected to wear them around school. It is important that all girls in Middle School with long hair have it tied back. Parents are also reminded that the wearing of make-up and jewellery in school is not permitted. Where a girl has pierced ears, she may only wear a single pearl or a gold or silver stud in each ear. For Speech Day, all girls in Year 7- 9 should be wearing a long sleeved shirt and their House tie. Girls in Year 10-11 may wear open necked blouses if they wish. Sixth Form girls should be wearing dark suits. A reminder too that unfortunately we do not have parking for Sixth Formers in school.

## Speech Day (Senior House only)

We are all looking forward to Speech Day on Tuesday 15 September. Our guest speaker will be Mrs Pat Langham, CBE, former Head of Wakefield Girls' High School and former President of the GSA, who is a most entertaining speaker and will be giving out the prizes. The girls may stay at school at the end of the day until Speech Day begins. If you wish your daughter to stay in school please provide her with a packed tea. If your daughter is going home, she must be back at school for 7 pm. This is a compulsory school session and all girls in Senior House are required to attend. All parents should now have responded to the invitation as we need to finalise numbers.

## **School Policies**

The following is a list of all school policies which are available on our website or as a hard copy in school: *Admissions Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding (Child Protection), Complaints Policy and Procedure, Curriculum Policy, Arranging Educational Visits*

The following is a list of all school policies which are available to parents on request:

*Careers Education and Guidance, Cross Phase Strategy, Policy on Data Protection, Information Security and Record Storage, Disability Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, First Aid Policy, Gifted and Talented Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Homework Policy, ICT Policy, Recording and Assessment Policy, Reporting to Parents, Sex Education, Special Educational Needs Policy, Teaching and Learning Policy*

## **Family Picnic – Sunday 13 September at 1pm and Sunday Services**

A new venture this year is the Family Picnic on Sunday 13 September at 1pm. This is an opportunity for the school community to welcome new families. Our sports leaders will be arranging games and activities. This will take place on the school field (Dining Hall if wet). Please bring your own lunch and picnic rugs; drinks will be provided.

The picnic will be followed by the first of our monthly informal family services at 2.30 pm during which there will be *Explorers* with Mrs Settle for children aged 3-11 and *Pathfinders* with Liz and Russell Elliott for young people aged 11-14.

Usually these informal services take place on the second Sunday of each month at 3.30 pm and last under an hour with refreshments afterwards

## **Parents' Prayer Group**

Mrs Elliott and Mrs Coleman are continuing to run our parents meeting group monthly on Thursdays in school at 8.30 am over coffee in the Quiet Room. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 8 October and will last not more than one hour. All parents are warmly invited to come along.

## **New Parents' Buffet Supper**

We are very much looking forward to meeting new parents at the New Parents' Buffet Supper which will be held on Friday 2 October at 7.30 pm. In addition to all new parents it is especially important that all Year 7 parents (including former Junior House parents) attend in order to get to know parents of girls who have joined us at this stage.

## **Parent Form Representatives (PFRs)**

Our Parent Form Representatives have been very significant in developing the partnership between school and parents. I would like to thank them once again for all their important work and to encourage all parents to keep in touch with their representative. We very much value offers of help from parents in every area of school life including career advice, drama, flower arranging etc.

Please do get in touch with me if you have any suggestions/concerns about any aspect of school life. I am always delighted to speak to parents.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Templeman  
Headmistress