

# DURHAM HIGH SCHOOL *for* GIRLS

January 2010

Durham High School for Girls  
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Dear Parents

A very Happy New Year to you all.

Can I take this opportunity of thanking you for your forbearance as we have grappled in school with the severe weather conditions. As most of you will have discovered the entry and exit roads are now fully cleared at school; however the car park remains hazardous in places and we would ask you to avoid parking while these conditions remain.

We hope very much that we will be able to remain open as usual with all extra-curricular activities functioning as planned.

## **Future Events**

I would like to draw your attention to a number of important events coming up as advertised in your dates' booklet.

- Friday 5 February 2010: *Independent Schools' Combined Concert* in Durham Cathedral at 7.30 pm - contact Mrs Dyson for tickets.
- Sunday 7 February: Our Sunday Service will be held in The Studio at 3.30 pm. We hope that members of our Brownie Pack will be taking part
- Monday 8 February 2010 – Durham High School (Year 5) and local primary schools perform '*Brilliant the Dinosaur*' at the Gala Theatre, Durham at 7 pm. Tickets available from the Gala Theatre.
- Thursday 25 and Friday 26 February 2010 at 7 pm: Performances of the Middle School Play: '*The Grimm Tales.*'

## **Two future dates which have not been published in your dates' booklet:**

- **Monday 8 March: Durham High School Chamber Choir will be singing Evensong in Durham Cathedral.**
- **Our Sports Presentation Evening will take place on Tuesday 23 March in school at 7 pm when our guest speaker will be Nicola Minichiello.**

This will be an occasion to celebrate the sporting achievements of every girl in school. Nicola is current World Bobsleigh Champion with her team mate Gillian Cooke. They are currently competing on the world cup bobsleigh circuit and will be competing for gold at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver next month. Hopefully by the time they visit school, they may be Olympic medallists!

## **Reports**

Please could I remind parents of Senior House pupils to return your daughter's report receipt slip if you have not already done so.

**Absence**

May I remind all parents that you must ring in to school to notify us as early as possible on the first day of your daughter's absence.

**School Inspection**

This term we are anticipating a school Inspection. We will receive just five days notice of the Inspection and then several inspectors will come into school to check we are compliant with all the regulations and inspect our Early Years' provision. The number of regulations has vastly increased over the last few years and is now well over 400. These regulations require us to produce a number of new policies and to update others; you will find the updated policies on our website.

After the first brief Inspection the Inspectors will then come back again, with a slightly bigger team, to spend more time looking at lessons and extra-curricular activities.

**Parental Questionnaire**

Parents will also be asked to fill in a short questionnaire about the school and its provision; there will only be a short window within which this can be done. We are unable to give you advance notice of this because of the way the Inspectorate notifies us of Inspection but we will tell you as soon as we know on which few days you will be able to access the on-line questionnaire. I hope very much you will be able to make time to fill it in.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Templeman  
Headmistress