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5 June 2015

Dear Parents

### Thursday 11 June 2015, Early School Closure for Pupils

The school will close to pupils at 1.20pm next Thursday, 11 June 2015. Priorities for School Development planning in 2014-15 require subject teachers and support staff to review curriculum plans and revise schemes of work, in view of significant changes to GCSE which are being introduced in all subjects. The initiative is part of the school's strategy to ensure high standards of subject delivery across all year groups. Pupil attendance on Thursday is important and timetabled lessons will take place across the morning. An earlier lunch will precede tutor time before dismissal at 1.15pm. School meals will therefore be served earlier than usual. School buses will collect pupils from school at 1.30pm. Please contact school if this early close causes childcare problems. Pupils who are unable to get home may remain in school until 3.15pm. Supervision by staff will be provided, but normal lessons will be suspended. Please be assured that the time gained by staff will be used conscientiously to plan and map provision in light of curriculum change.

### School Uniform

Members of the Leadership Team delivered assemblies to all pupils this week, outlining the key aspects of the school's uniform outlined in the *Dress for Success* booklet which was sent home to parents before half-term. We are extremely proud of the vast majority of our pupils who continue to wear school uniform appropriately; we thank parents for working with the school to secure high standards. However, standards need to improve for a number of pupils who are wearing inappropriate uniform, particularly trousers, footwear and skirts. From Monday any pupil wearing incorrect uniform will be issued with an *Inappropriate Uniform Card*. This card will highlight the item of uniform that does not meet with school policy. Parents are asked to sign and return the card to school the day after its receipt with a commitment to address the aspect of uniform identified, as soon as possible and no later than the start of the new academic year. Forthcoming meetings of senior school staff and personnel from Rawcliffes and Jo Brand will emphasise that items on sale as our uniform must comply with style of skirts and trousers which are acceptable here. All details are available in the *Dress for Success* booklet and on the school's website.

As you are aware, the school is introducing a new school uniform with effect from 1 September 2015. There is no expectation that pupils currently attending school need to buy the uniform this September, though many parents have indicated that they wish to do so. Pupils currently in Years 7 and 8 must wear the new school uniform by September 2016. Pupils currently in Year 9 have the option of wearing the new school uniform should they choose, but this is not a requirement. Year 9 pupils must, however, buy and wear the new school tie (priced £4.99) by September 2016.

New school uniform (burgundy blazer, plaid school skirt, school tie and PE kit) is available from APC school outfitters. APC's school uniform shop is based in Tadcaster. Orders may be made online. APC will be in school for purchases of uniform on Tuesday 23 June from 5.30pm to 6.45pm, Tuesday 7 July from 5.30pm to 7.00pm and Monday 20 July from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

### Selection Process for New School Prefects

Year 10 pupils who have applied for positions as prefects are currently involved in a selection process. Prefects play an important role every school day by assisting members of staff in the smooth running of the school, particularly during break and lunchtimes but more generally in their exemplary behaviour, smart appearance and integrity. Some 32 pupils were selected for the various roles on the basis of our staff's knowledge of them, as well as the quality of their written applications. We were delighted to receive over 90 applications of particularly high quality from the



year group. This is testament to their enthusiasm and application. Staff and students will select a Head Girl, Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy in a rigorous recruitment process, similar to that of appointing a new member of staff. Interviews will take place in the coming week. I am confident that whosoever is appointed from this very strong field will represent the school admirably.

### **Geography in Grassington**

Year 10 pupils enjoyed a field work visit to Grassington on Tuesday 2 June. They battled through the elements to collect data for the controlled assessments in GCSE Geography. Activities included data collection by methods such as pedestrian counts and scrutiny of cross sections to measure footpath erosion. The investigation was based on a hypothesis that 'Tourism has a negative impact on the Yorkshire Dales National Park'.



### **County Selection**

This week Cardinal Heenan pupils were winners in a tournament of boccia and new age kurling, organised by Leeds School Sport. (Boccia is a game similar to bowls. The aim of the game is to throw red or blue leather balls close to a white target ball, or jack. New age kurling is played by pushing stones comprised of bearings along the ground towards a target). This is the first time our pupils have entered such an event. Congratulations to our team of Eleanor Redding, Ales Bandarenka, Jacob Gatenby (all Year 7) and Daniel Walsh (Year 8). After the victory at the John Charles Stadium, the school has been asked to represent Leeds at the West Yorkshire School Games on Tuesday 7 July.

Yours sincerely



E A Cox, Headteacher