

9 January 2015

Dear Parents

**School Development Planning 2014-16: Moving to Outstanding**

The attached summary of the current School Development Plan identifies priorities for the next stage of the school’s development. The focus of all planning is the school’s aim to be outstanding in all aspects of its work. The plan is divided into five sections: Catholic Life of the School; Achievement of Pupils; Quality of Teaching; Leadership and Management; and Behaviour and Safety of Pupils. Each section includes a vision statement and a summary of ongoing and planned work to raise pupil achievement further.

**Behaviour for Learning (BfL)**

The school continues its drive to ensure high standards of “Behaviour for Learning” for all pupils so that they engage strongly with learning and make rapid and sustained progress across all their studies. BfL for each pupil in every subject are collected each half-term by the school and allow key staff to identify the strengths and areas for development of each individual pupil. This in turn, helps to inform interventions in the classroom and any additional pupil support that may be required. BfL grades are reported to parents three times each academic year, usually at the end of each term.

Pupil data for half term two (November and December 2014) indicated that there is very good engagement by pupils with their learning across all year groups. Grades are consistently high. The summary below shows that the average BfL grade for pupils in all years and across all subjects ranges between Outstanding and Good. It also shows that engagement by pupils in their learning has continued to improve since the beginning of the school year, with the exception of Year 7 where BfL grades have remained consistently high since the admission of pupils to the school in September 2014.

Behaviour for Learning Average Grades Autumn Term 2014			
	Half Term 1 October 2014 Average BfL grade	Half Term 2 December 2014 Average BfL grade	Improvement
Year 7	1.52	1.52	-
Year 8	1.78	1.70	+ 0.08
Year 9	1.66	1.61	+0.05
Year 10	1.90	1.81	+0.08
Year 11	1.83		BfL Data available to parents in February 2015

Behaviour for Learning Grades	
1	Outstanding
2	Good
3	Requires Improvement
4	Inadequate

The school is targeting improvement for those pupils wherever BfL grades 3 (Requires Improvement) and 4 (Inadequate) are given. Subject teachers are working closely with pupils to advise on how improvements in lessons can be made. In addition, where there is evidence that there are significant issues across subjects, a whole school intervention support is being addressed through Year Managers.

### **Rewarding Pupils with High Behaviour for Learning Grades**

Reward events will be held each day during morning break next week to recognise pupils who have achieved high BfL grades across a range of subjects and to celebrate their success. Pupils demonstrating high levels of motivation in their learning and preparedness to apply themselves in their work will be invited to enjoy refreshments in the school Conference Room. The events will be attended by myself, other senior members of staff, Achievement Leaders, Year Managers and tutors. Parents will be notified if their son or daughter has been invited to the Reward events.

### **Early School Close for Pupils at 1.20pm on Wednesday 21 January 2015**

Priorities for School Development planning in 2014-15 requires subject teachers and support teams to analyse pupil outcomes each term, to co-ordinate classroom support and challenge strategies and to ensure consistently high levels of progress. In order to ensure a quality, co-ordinated approach, the school will close to pupils at 1.20pm on Wednesday 21 January 2015. An early lunch will precede tutor time before dismissal. School buses will collect pupils from school at 1.30pm. Parents should contact school if this early school closure causes any childcare problems. Pupils who are unable to get home or who will not be cared for safely due to the early finish may remain in school until 3.15pm. Normal lessons will be suspended. However, time gained by staff will be used conscientiously to target teaching and map additional provision to pupil needs.

Please contact your child's Year Manager no later than Friday 16 January if you wish your son or daughter to be supervised in school until 3.15pm on Wednesday 21 January. Please note that pupils travelling from school at 3.15pm will be required to make their own travel arrangements.

### **Year 8 Options Information Meetings, Thursday 22 January**

#### **Year 8 Parents' Evening, Wednesday 28 January**

Information meetings for Year 8 parents and pupils about options at Key Stage 4 will be held in the School Hall on Thursday 22 January. The first meeting, at 5.00pm, will be for parents of pupils recommended for Pathway 1 (single GCSE Science and vocational courses). A second meeting for parents of pupils recommended for Pathways 2 and 3 (double and triple GCSE Science courses) will take place at 7.00pm. (Please note the different start times). These occasions will provide an opportunity to find out more about courses and to discuss which of these may be best suited to your child. Senior Staff will be available to discuss curriculum choice with you on the evening. Letters recommending one of the three pathways will be sent home to Year 8 parents next week.

An options fair for pupils will take place in school on Monday 26 January. Year 8 pupils will have the opportunity to meet older pupils already studying the various KS4 courses and to ask questions of the learners themselves. A booklet setting out details of each core and option subject and a Directed Choices form will be issued to Year 8 pupils on Tuesday 27 January prior to the Year 8 Parents' Evening which takes place on Wednesday 28 January from 4.00pm to 7.00pm. Teachers who will be delivering the courses and Senior Staff will be available to discuss curriculum choice with parents and pupils on that occasion.

### **Safeguarding Children**

Leeds Safeguarding Children Board have been working with partners on the implementation of the Leeds Child Sexual Exploitation action plan. This includes action to raise awareness of the dangers of online grooming with parents and carers.

Parents, carers and relatives may have purchased technology such as iPads, game consoles, mobile phones etc. for children as gifts for Christmas.

On this basis a series of simple, easy to follow instructions have been produced for parents to set privacy settings on the most popular technological devices and apps. The parent can enable the settings, therefore helping to keep their child or young person safe when they are online. The instructions can be found on the LSCB website: [www.leedslscb.org.uk/parents-carers-wider-family](http://www.leedslscb.org.uk/parents-carers-wider-family).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E A Cox', with a stylized flourish at the end.

E A Cox  
Headteacher