



Dear Parents and Carers

Once again, we are reaching the end of another academic year and I find myself sitting back in awe when I consider some of our students' achievements. Only last week, we celebrated our school's sporting heroes and on Wednesday this week, Mrs Castledine will host the annual 'Arts Stars' award ceremony which recognises the contribution made by our students to the Arts. This takes place in a national climate where the Arts are threatened by an increasingly narrow curriculum and a lack of funding. I am therefore especially delighted to hear that more students than ever before have won an Arts award this year.

There have been many highlights this year but the contribution made by our prefects and learning ambassadors stands out in my mind. When students start to feel confident enough to join their teachers in partnership in the learning journey, we truly know that we are creating a very special school environment. I look forward to seeing many other opportunities for school leadership for students in the coming year.

The 'above and beyond' commitment shown by teachers and staff at the school is a daily occurrence and Year 11 certainly benefitted from a whole range of extra tuition and mentoring that will, hopefully, have supported them to achieve their dreams in this year's GCSE results. We wait with baited breath for results, not least because we will be able to gauge the level of challenge promised by the new 1-9 GCSEs in Maths and English. This will inevitably help us at getting even more adept at preparing students for a more rigorous and academic diet from Year 7. I know that we will especially miss Mrs McNaught who has been a wonderful example of giving everything to her students in Mathematics for over 20 years at John Flamsteed. I am sure that you will join me in wishing her a very long and happy retirement ahead.

We welcomed 160 Year 6 children for induction in July. It is the first time in the history of John Flamsteed Community School where we have been able to expand to welcome six forms in a year group. The two new forms will be known as 'A' (Astronomer) and 'R' (Royal) in honour of John Flamsteed himself. This is testament to our growing reputation in the local area where our students are seen behaving beautifully and dressed impeccably in their uniforms on their journeys to and from school. I am stopped many times by members of the public who tell me how polite and well presented our students are; I feel like a proud mother hen every time!

As the summer holidays approach, may I offer some words of caution for you to pass on to your son or daughter, so that everyone remains safe? Please be vigilant with online activity and in particular, sharing photographs, especially holiday snaps, through social media. The following website may be of some help: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/staying-safe-online-summer>. In addition to this, please be mindful of all the usual advice: stay away from swimming in open, unsupervised water and look after your skin if we do get any hot weather. (I also hear that eating a strawberry ice-cream a day in the summer counts as one of your five-a-day!)



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I hope that by now, you will all have received the school's calendar for 2017/18. You will therefore be aware that students return to school on Tuesday 5 September for our usual 8.40am start. Please ensure that they have everything they need including a full pencil case with a proper blue or black ink handwriting pen with which to write – no biros please - for the start of the new academic year. Please may I also remind you that this **Friday 21 July**, is a non-uniform day to support Year 9 who are raising money for their chosen charity, Teenage Cancer Trust. Please can your son or daughter bring £1.00 to support this event. Finally, school will close on Friday at **2.00pm** – buses have been arranged to come early. If there are any students that need to wait in school until the usual time of 3.15pm, Mr P Moore will be here to supervise.

Life is seemingly so busy that I encourage all of you to have some time to relax and enjoy the summer. If that doesn't appeal, then maybe there will be some ideas for a more active break on the following websites:

https://www.summer-schools.info/power_search.php?pflag=search®ion=east+midlands

<http://www.visitderby.co.uk/whats-on/school-summer-holidays>

For me, the trick is to balance time for doing the things that you never usually get time to do, with some time to think, to reflect and to marvel at the world around us....and of course, to read, read, read!

Leisure

*What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.*

*W H Davies
First published 1911*

Yours sincerely



Mrs L J Walton
Headteacher