



Hinchingsbrooke School

Inspiring excellence Fulfilling potential

A DfE Academy with a Specialism in Sport

Our Ref: AEG/CAP

16 January 2013

Dear Parents,

May I start by wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

I trust that your Christmas celebrations were full of good cheer and have left you refreshed and revitalised to approach 2013 with hope and optimism.

At Hinchingsbrooke we have much to look forward to, as our plans for improvement gather pace and we formulate ideas for September 2013. The purpose of this letter is to outline some of these from a whole school perspective, so that you are informed well in advance of any changes being implemented. Parents in particular year groups will get more detailed information from a variety of sources where their children are concerned, for example through the Options process for Year 9 and the transition process for Year 11 into the Sixth Form.

There have been two major reviews conducted during term 1, the first a leadership and management review and the second a curriculum review. As a result of these there are plans to introduce new courses at different levels so that the needs of individual students can be better met. At present every student has essentially the same diet of GCSEs and there are very few vocational options or opportunities for functional skills and life courses. The choice of courses from September 2013 will be wider and support and guidance will be given at the time of students' making those choices.

In terms of the structure of the school, we are going to create three 'mini schools'. The Lower School consisting of Years 7 and 8, the Middle School Years 9, 10 and 11 and the Upper School Years 12 and 13 (i.e. the Sixth Form). In terms of the leadership and management of these mini schools, there is little change in the Sixth Form and any minor changes will be clearly explained by Mr Norris and Mrs Miller who will continue to head up this important part of the school.

The Lower School will be led by a team of tutors who will guide and support students in Years 7 and 8 in mixed tutor groups. This means that each new Year 7 student will be allocated a 'buddy' in the same form group who will help them to find their feet and settle in to the school. The team of tutors will be led by a Head of Lower School and two Student Support Officers. The school will have a dedicated administrative assistant who will provide support for parents of students in the Lower School and be on the end of a telephone for advice and guidance.

In the Middle School there will be a Head of Year and a team of tutors who will follow their year group through these important three years to their final examinations in Year 11. The three Heads of Year (9, 10 and 11) will report to the Head of Middle School and, again, there will be a dedicated Middle School administrator to provide a point of contact for parents and to offer support and guidance. A non-teaching Student Support Officer will also be allocated to each Year Team to act as deputy to the Head of Year.

In addition to the pastoral structure as outlined, there will be a Student Services Directorate comprising the two important branches of 'Learning Support' and 'Safeguarding and Inclusion' who will provide more specialist support across the whole school.

On the academic side of the school we will be dividing up the subjects into Directorates as follows:

Directorate of Enterprise & Enquiry	Directorate of Creativity & Performance	Directorate of Global Communications	Directorate of Global Society
Science	Sport & P.E.	English	Social Sciences
Mathematics	Art, Design & Technology	Modern Foreign Languages	History
Business & Economics	Music & Music Technology	Film & Media	Geography
ICT & Computing	Dance & Drama	PSHE & Citizenship	R.S. & Philosophy
Information advice & guidance (IAG), Work related learning, Careers, Enterprise education, Work experience.			Global perspectives

Each Directorate will be led by a Director of Learning (Vice Principal) who will challenge and support the Heads of Department and help to quality assure the teaching and learning and curriculum offer and each will have their own dedicated administrative support.

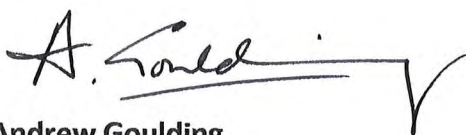
The senior team will comprise these four Directors of Learning, the Director of Operations, the Director of Student Services and the Director of Sixth Form.

As you can see, these are significant changes in the structure which are aimed at securing further improvements in standards. Recruitment to some of these posts will take place over the coming months so that we are ready for the new start next September.

Now for much more immediate matters: in light of the severe weather please keep an eye on our website which is where we will publish any updates about potential school closures. These will also be sent out via parentmail. Please be assured that the school will remain open unless either the site is deemed unsafe, or there are insufficient staff able to get into school to supervise the students.

I wish you all the very best for 2013 and thank you for your support of the school.

Kind regards



Andrew Goulding
Principal