



Batley Grammar School

Mrs B P Tullie
Head

December 2010

To all Parents (Senior and Junior School)

Dear Parents

I am writing to all parents in both Senior School and Priestley House with news, dates and information.

Newsletter events

Enclosed you will find the Autumn 2010 newsletter, detailing just some of the activities and events that took place this term. It provides only a snapshot of the many events, activities, visits and opportunities available to our pupils and indeed it went to publication before the final activities in Priestley House and Senior School took place. I would like to thank Mrs Helen Cave, one of our finance assistants, who so ably designed and compiled the newsletter for this term.

Rearranged Speech Day

Having had to postpone Speech Day due to the hazardous weather conditions I can now confirm that the rearranged date, suitable for our invited guest, is Friday 7th January. It will start at 7.30 and visitors, guests, parents and pupils should be seated in the Graves Hall by 7.20 at the latest. We do hope that this rearranged date will provide our leavers an opportunity to attend when otherwise some of them may have been unable to return during the university term. However, we will not be finishing at lunch time as was previously arranged for the 2nd December.

INSET days

With the disruption we incurred due to the recent extreme weather conditions, we will be rearranging our planned INSET sessions in both February and May. Therefore Monday 27th February and Friday 27th May will be normal school days for pupils in both Priestley House and Senior School.

Improving communication

This time last year we indicated that a number of you had suggested that we send more information out electronically either by e-mail and/or text messaging facility and we now have that facility in place. Its usage has many advantages particularly in relation to the speed of communication in informing you of any emergency closures due to weather and changes to after school clubs and activities. This has worked well recently, especially when we experienced difficulties with the website. However, to provide complete coverage we need everyone's updated mobile numbers and e-mails (where applicable). Would you please let the school office have these, particularly the e-mail addresses, if you have not already done so.

Admissions testing

We held our Admissions Tests, for prospective pupils into Year 7 in Senior School, last Saturday 11 December. We needed to run three sittings in the Sports Hall to accommodate everyone that had registered their interest for Year 7. If you have registered an interest for a child in another year or indeed know someone who has, please note that we will be in contact with you shortly about next steps.

Free School update

Just to keep you up to date with our Free School application progress. We are currently in the process of compiling our Business Case and we anticipate that this will be submitted to the Secretary of State by the end of January and we understand that funding agreements will be signed around the end of February. You may be interested to know that at the Free School's Forum at the Department for Education, which the Bursar and I recently attended, the Secretary of State acknowledged to all those present that Batley Grammar School was an outstanding school with excellent examination results.

As part of our Free School Business Case we are obliged to initiate a formal stakeholder consultation period which will start from Monday 20th December for six weeks until Friday 28th January. This is in addition to the previous informal consultation which included meetings, information letters and submissions of interest. I do realise that many of you attended the meetings we organised last year and 98% of you returned the registration of interest form indicating that you wanted your son/daughter to remain in the school when it became a Free School. However we are obliged to carry out this process and if you wish to make a comment about the Free School proposal then you may submit this via our website. Just click on the Free School formal consultation icon on the home page, where you will find a summary of the proposal information, and will be able to add your comment.

Looking forward

As we look forward to another busy and productive term my thanks, to you as parents, for encouraging your sons and daughters to work hard, get involved and look to serve others as well as themselves. We shall look forward to seeing all our students once again when they return on Thursday 6th January 2011.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of myself and all the staff at Batley Grammar School to wish you Season's Greetings.

Yours sincerely,

B P TULLIE (Mrs)