

12th September 2011

Dear Parent/Carer,

Open Evening Thursday 22nd September 2011 5.00 – 8.00 p.m.

Thank you for your help last year in promoting the school ... the school is now over-subscribed in Years 7-10 and there are nearly 200 students in our sixth form. I would like to ask for your support again in promoting the school to Year 6 students in our local primary schools. I believe the best advert for a school is from students who already attend and are enjoying being at Mount Grace. You can support the school by encouraging all families of Year 6 students to come to our Open Evening on Thursday 22nd September and encourage them to make an application to the school. Please promote Mount Grace: more students mean more financial support available for the benefit of all students in the school.

If you did not already know there are three reasons why Year 6 students should come to Mount Grace:-

1. The results at Mount Grace continue to go from strength to strength with over 52% of students gaining the 5 A* - C, including English and Maths. The figure is up 2% points on last year which in itself was a record in 2010. In addition, the previous records for average points score 472 (442 in 2010) and capped points score 331 (317 in 2010) have also been broken. At A-level, the UCAS Points per entry now stands at a record 81 (previous best 76 in 2009). In addition, over 30% of the A-level grades achieved by Y13 were at A*, A or B.
2. We are now a “converter” academy and we are among the first wave in Hertfordshire to do so. This means we are now completely independent from the Local Authority and can spend the additional money from the government (approximately £260K per year) on our own priorities.
3. The school continues to invest in its infrastructure: the canteen has been completely renovated; a bike storage facility was installed last term and there are plans to redesign the reception area next Easter, all at a cost of over £250k.

Thank you for your support in this matter in helping us to promote our school to friends, family and neighbours in and around the local community.

Whilst writing may I remind all parents of the following arrangements for our Open Evening:-

Lessons are as normal on the morning of **Thursday 22nd September** and **school will end at 12.40pm** that day to give staff and students an opportunity to prepare. Those students entitled to free school meals will be able to use their allowance at break time. If your child is unable to attend school during the morning, it is important that you telephone the Attendance Officer at School with a reason for their absence.

Students from years 7, 8, 10, 12 and 13 will be acting as guides (see separate sheet)

Students from years 8, 9, 10 and 11 could be asked to be guides or to help in departments (see separate sheet)

No student will be able to help as a guide or in departments unless a signed permission slip has been returned to school by Friday, 16th September 2011 at the latest. (see separate sheet)

The school opens at 5.00pm and we would ask all students who are helping to be here for 4.45 pm (unless otherwise advised), dressed very smartly in school uniform, (girls should be in school skirts, years 7–11) and in ‘business dress’ for years 12 and 13.

On **Friday 23rd September** registration will take place at **9.30 a.m.** and students will then attend lesson 2 on their timetable.

Friday, 25th November is an Occasional Day. **MONDAY, 28th November** is an INSET day. **The school will be closed** and no students are expected to attend on these two days.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Baker
Headteacher