



14<sup>th</sup> September 2007

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to extend a warm welcome back to our year 8 students after their summer break during which, hopefully, they recharged their batteries in anticipation of another successful year.

Last year proved to be a year in which almost every student achieved something of which they should be proud. From academic or sporting accolades, to attendance and behaviour recognition. The year group as a whole proved to themselves and to us that they are capable of very high standards and it is to these that we will be looking again this year.

Every year in school is important and every one has its own particular focus. Sometimes that focus is exams such as SATs or GCSEs and other times it can be a target set with a particular goal in mind though not necessarily academic. This year our goal is to raise attendance. 'ATTENDANCE MATTERS!' will be the focus for Year 8. A large number of students received certificates of attendance for last year and we plan to increase that number dramatically.

Naturally this doesn't mean we aren't interested in academic achievement, quite the contrary. Our results from last year show that the majority of students are on target and even above it in a lot of cases. As well as focussing on attendance we are planning to raise those standards to the level where every student is either on target or above by the end of this academic year.

Our **Parent's Evening is on December 11<sup>th</sup>** this year so put it in the diary now! There is no better way to monitor your child's progress and to show your support and recognition than by coming to the event and talking with the teachers. Every child will be given a sheet of appointment times to fill in so you can maximise the use of your time here and we will be staying open for the whole evening to allow you flexibility. As with last year, the children of all parents who attend will be entered in a prize draw.

**Last year we had a whopping 80% attendance on our Yr.7 Parent's Evening – the highest in the school – let's see if we can't beat our own record.**

Finally, let me remind you of the trip to **Sandymouth** in July of next year. This is a fantastic trip giving the children an opportunity to grow and develop, learning skills they need to succeed in life, incorporating a lot of fun too! If you haven't signed up it isn't too late – contact the school, every child should go.

In the meantime if you have any concerns you wish to speak to me about please don't hesitate to call me and I look forward to seeing you **all** on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Best regards

**MS S A MACDONALD  
HEAD OF LEARNING YEAR 8**