

May 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to share some key information about the coming term (including the final few weeks of the school year) at High Storrs School. I also wanted to share details of two key changes to our school leadership team with you. Many of you know that the wonderful Mrs O'Connor retired at Easter after 27 years teaching at High Storrs. We will all miss her strong leadership but have been delighted to welcome our new Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour, Welfare and Safety, Mr Ben Lacey. Equally, we welcome a new Business Manager, Ms Donna Bownes to the Senior Leadership Team at the end of May.

No Rollover

Many of you will be aware that we have further developed our curriculum offer at High Storrs School. Possibly the most noticeable feature is that students will no longer (from September 2018 onwards) take a GCSE examination in Y9 at High Storrs School. Whilst there have been some great successes in the past, such as the demands of the new 1-9 GCSEs that we believe it would no longer serve our students well to take any examinations before Y10. Consequentially we will **no longer have a roll over** and roll our Y7s into Y8, Y8s into Y9, Y9s into Y10s and Y10s into Y11 for the final four weeks. This will be a change for many of our students! We have already told them about this change. Y9 and Y10 students who have completed a one year GCSE will spend their final weeks of curriculum time in these lessons engaged in a mixture of enrichment work and bridging work for the new one year GCSE that they will start in September 2018.

You will also see in the section below that there are a number of key events that will take place in the final weeks of term. Amongst all the community endeavours and celebrations there is also a series of assessments for Y10 students which will begin week commencing 2 July 2018. These assessments will be in Maths, English Literature (for some) and Science. Students will get further details from their subject teachers in June.

Summer events and activities

The final weeks of the school year are a really exciting time in school. The fabulous production, 'Guys and Dolls' begins on Monday 9 July 2018. We also have the Dance Exchange, 'The Oscars', our Y6 Welcome Evening and the Y13 Prom.

There are also three important events during the school day. Tuesday 17 July 2018 is our School Sports Day at the English Institute of Sport. This, along with our High Storrs Hike on Friday 6 July 2018, are opportunities for the school community to have fun together, be active and raise money for the school. We have tried to streamline our systems by asking you for a single permissions form that covers all such events. If you are yet to return it can I please urge you to do so as soon as possible (we will issue reminders via your children).

We also have our 'Celebration of Success' events on the afternoon of Monday 16 July 2018. We trialled an afternoon event (as opposed to an evening event in September of the new school year) last year and feel this was the right approach. The certificates awarded at these events recognise hard work and achievements *this* school year. We also want to ensure all students are there to be celebrated and an afternoon event ensures they are! We do hope you will join us for your son/daughter's House Celebration. Further details will be shared by letter. On the afternoon of the 'Celebration of Success' all forms will also have a celebration activity.

Finally, term ends on Friday 20 July 2018 and school will close to students at 12.10pm on that day.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our various forthcoming events.

Yours faithfully

Claire Tasker
Headteacher