

4 January 2012

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year and Best Wishes for 2012!

The year ended on a high at the end of last term with our numerous concerts and celebration events. Our annual prizegiving on Thursday 16th December was very well supported and it was a pleasure to see so many students return from university to receive their awards.

As we look forward to the new term, as always, we have a very busy calendar. GCE exams begin next week when we will also be receiving the results from GCSE November exams. Please find overleaf a more detailed summary of events this term - up to date information will also continue to be available via our website.

Traditionally at this time of year, we are bombarded with adverts for holidays. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our policy regarding requests for holidays during school time. I am sure you appreciate that with controlled assessments and examinations taking place throughout the academic year, I cannot sanction holidays taken during term time other than as a result of exceptional circumstances.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to information regarding Free School Meals. The government supports students through a new pupil premium whereby extra funding is allocated to schools. The funding is based on the number of students eligible for Free School Meals. You can register your child if you get any of these benefits -

- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit provided that they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16190
- National Asylum Seekers Support under Part V1 of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed Element of State pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit 'run - on' the payments someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

Registering is very straightforward. If you think you qualify, contact the Benefits Assessment Unit on 0845 245 8000 who will help you to register or complete and return the attached application form. Further information is available from <http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/advice/parents/schoolmeals/index.html>.

For the school to receive extra funding, we need to have your child registered as having Free School Meals by 19th January. All information regarding Free School Meals is kept confidential.

Should you require any further details, please do not hesitate to contact Julie Kendall, Business Manager on 01422 832070

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Honor M Byford
Headteacher

 Strive to Excel