

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I hope that you and your families have all had a wonderful summer and that your children are refreshed and looking forward to the beginning of term. I'd like, on behalf of my family, to thank you all for your warmth and welcome as we have settled in Woodhall Spa. We've had the opportunity to explore an area that is new to us and have thoroughly enjoyed doing so. It also has been lovely to meet many of you today and to see the school in full swing.

I spoke in assembly this morning about the importance of community at St. Hugh's and how each child has a responsibility to play a part in achieving this. I am already very proud of the way that they all responded and I have seen children of all ages helping each other during the course of today.

Secondly, welcome or welcome back to all of our pupils. Normal service has already resumed, and the school has been alive with the excitement that a new term brings and the atmosphere now feels as it should; purposeful, energetic and fun. A number of children have joined us in all year groups, including as boarders. To those who are (like me!) completely new to the school, I extend a particularly special welcome.

Life in school at St. Hugh's has been very busy over the summer. No sooner did last year end than the decorators arrived. They and our maintenance team have been working very hard to redecorate the main entrance and offices at school and I am grateful to them all for their work. In addition, some remedial works have taken place around school, in particular in the swimming pool.

We have also hosted a number of visitors during the summer. In addition to our own Holiday Club, we have welcomed Stagefright who stayed with us for four weeks and most recently the Leicester Tigers coaches. It was a pleasure to meet many of our pupils during the week as they were put through their paces in the sunshine. Hopefully they will return at the same time next year. Again, I'd like to thank all of the staff involved, particularly those in the kitchen.

As we start the new school year, I wish to just highlight a few areas:

Staffing:

I am delighted to welcome **Mme Cathérine Brabant** back to school. Her return to work is phased and both Mme Magali Clayton and Mr Gavin Sinnott will be working closely with her.

Head Boy and Head Girl:

Now that they have their ties, our Head Boy and Girl are now official and I look forward to working with Alice and Joseph in their roles. They, and the rest of the Year 8s, have already set a good tone for the term and have been very helpful during the course of the day with the other pupils, in particular those new to the school.

Main Entrance:

As many of you will already have seen, the main entrance to school has been refurbished. If you do use the main entrance to school, please help our cleaning staff to keep this area clean by using the mats provided, particularly when the weather changes.

School Calendar:

We try to keep changes to the calendar to a minimum but they are often unavoidable. Any changes made will always be reflected in the online calendar on the school website.

Next week will see the start of individual music lessons. Also, we are spending the day on Monday 9th September on the theme of "Perseverance", one of our Learning Dispositions; Mr Sinnott and the teaching staff have put together a programme for the day.

One further addition that will be made is to include the date for the nativity for all children in the Early Years and Pre-Prep. This will be on Friday 13th December.

As ever, please contact the relevant member of staff (or the School Office) if you have any queries. Staff contact details can be found on the website.

Communication:

Following on from the last section, whilst all teaching staff have an email address, they are not always able to respond immediately to urgent emails due to their commitments during the day. If you have "on the day" questions, please either direct these to the School Office or copy the School Office on your request. You are, of course, more than welcome to email me directly and I shall endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

Photographer:

On Friday 6 September, we have a photographer coming in to school and would like the girls, if possible, to be in winter uniform. Please don't worry if they have outgrown last year's or you haven't purchased it yet, as we will still include them in the shots.

Open Day:

We are holding our next Open Day on Thursday 19th September and, as usual, we will be sending home a few leaflets for you to pass on to any family or friends who may be interested in St Hugh's for their children.

Boarding:

I am grateful to Miss Hainsworth and her team in Boarding for their work with our boarders. The first of the term's trips is to the beach on Wednesday and those who have signed up are already looking forward to it. Please contact Miss Hainsworth for further details.

In addition to the PA Drinks for New Parents on Wednesday at 3pm, I look forward to the opportunity to meet you all during the course of the term's events but please do not hesitate to contact me separately if you wish to.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Wyld