

31 January 2008

Dear Parent

The term is progressing very well and, because of a very early Easter this year, we are just over a week away from the half-term break. Whether through good luck or vigilance, we seem to have been little affected by recent bugs, but I hope you will continue to be vigilant in helping us to prevent the spread of any infections.

Entrance exam successes

Although we are still waiting for 11+ results from several schools, the early indications are (as usual) very positive. All our candidates who have sat exams at Harrogate Ladies', Ashville and Woodhouse Grove have been successful with several scholarship offers. Congratulations to the children involved. I will write again when full details are available.

Mrs Wright

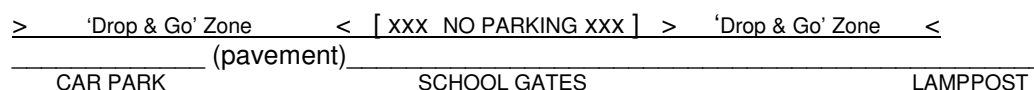
After many years of dedicated service to the school, on reaching 60 Mrs Wright has decided to retire at the end of this school year. It will be seven months before Mrs Wright leaves us, so you will understand that the right moment to praise and thank her lies in the future. My more immediate concern is to recruit her successor and adverts in the local press will be appearing soon. I hope to appoint someone for late April/early May so that there is plenty of time for the new person to settle in and become a familiar face before Mrs Wright finally leaves.

Director of Studies

Following a review of the management structure at school, we have established a new position of responsibility. The Director of Studies will take a significant role in curriculum development, monitoring assessment and helping with staff development. I am delighted to advise you that Miss Priestnall has been appointed and she has started work already on agreed priorities. The appointment does not affect her current responsibilities.

'Drop and Go' Zones

To help ease parking congestion, we would like to experiment with two 'drop and go' zones in Clarence Road in the mornings after half-term. The hope is that some of the parents of older children, e.g. those in Forms I-IV, will stop briefly in the designated areas, allow their child(ren) to alight on to the pavement and then drive off. The designated areas (see below), are on the school side of the road and close to the gate and should be safe for the children concerned. Initially, we will use signs to indicate the areas and have a member of staff outside to assist. If the experiment proves successful, once parents and children become familiar with the concept it should work without the need for signs or supervision.



Many of you will remember our highly successful inspection from last year. Most of the inspectors who work for the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) are serving Heads or other senior staff. This is a major factor contributing to the genuine peer appraisal that characterises ISI inspections. Earlier last year I trained as an inspector and in November I carried out my first inspection at Colet Court, St. Paul's Prep School in London. Next week I shall be in Hull inspecting the junior school at Hymers College. On average I shall probably be involved in two or three inspections each year and I can vouch for the fact that they are a marvellous form of professional development.

If you are having a holiday at half-term (I know that some are skiing), I hope you have a very enjoyable time.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely

Headmaster