

July 2008

To: All Parents

Newsletter : July 2008

I hope that the boys have enjoyed the summer term and that those who have been sitting public examinations feel that they acquitted themselves well.

1. Staff

At the end of term we gave our thanks and good wishes to five members of staff who are retiring this summer. **Mr Malcolm Curtis**, our Head of Economics and Business Studies, retires after 35 years' service to the school; **Mr Tony Young**, our Director of Studies (and former Head of Mathematics), and **Mr John Kendall**, our Head of French (and former Head of Lower School), retire after 33 years' service; **Mrs Sandra Glancy**, a member of the History Department who has also served our Library with distinction, retires after over 16 years at the school; and **Mr Mike Byrne**, a member of staff in the Junior School, retires after 19 years at BGSB.

Mr Tony Harrison is leaving after 25 years at the school to pursue further study and writing. **Mr Richard Johnson** is stepping down as a member of the teaching staff but returns in September as our Examinations Officer. **Mrs Carole Stirzaker** leaves after 17 years at the school to pursue her great talent in flower-arranging and **Mr Mark Bradley** leaves after 14 years to take up a senior post at Rossall School. **Miss Helen Smith**, who has been on maternity leave this year, has decided not to return; she was a member of staff here for 8 years. **Mr Gerry Halpin** leaves us after 13 years as a part-time member of the Art Department, as does **Mrs Catherine Schofield** who has been with us for 17 years, most recently as a part-time member of the French Department. We also say farewell to **Mrs Helen Grundy**, who has been a part-time teacher of Music in the Junior School, and to two members of staff who have been with us for only one year, **Mr Aubrey Matthews** and **Mrs Lindsey McGinnis**.

All of these colleagues leave with our grateful thanks for all they have given to the school, both in and out of the classroom, and with our very best wishes for the future.

2. Heads of Year from September

First Form: Mrs T J Taylor

Second Form: Mr A P Christian

Third Form: Mrs R L Bradley

Fourth Form: Mr D P Cassidy

Fifth Form: Mr T A Burns

Sixth Form: Mr G A Ferguson

3. School appointments

The appointments below have been made for next academic year. I congratulate the boys and wish them well for their year of office.

Captain of School: William Leach

Vice Captain of School: David Howorth

House Captains

Derby: David Taylor

Howlett: Alexander Lau

Hulme: Christopher Parsons

Kay: Matthew Travis

Sports Captains

Football: David Howorth

Rugby: William Leach

Cricket: David Taylor

Badminton: Thomas Barling

Basketball: Jack Harrison

Cross Country: Alexander Lau

Hockey: Alexander Montrose

Swimming: Thomas Barling

4. Mr Robert Forrester

Parents will be aware of the non-uniform day which we held at the beginning of this term, to raise money for Mr Bob Forrester – the Old Boy and former Captain of School who, to celebrate his 80th birthday, planned to climb 80 peaks in the Lake District and North Wales in aid of WaterAid in Tanzania. Mr Forrester came to the school in February to talk to the boys, and in the light of his visit we decided to support him in his fund-raising. Mr Forrester became very ill soon after his visit and he died in May. The £1300 raised through the non-uniform day has been sent to WaterAid.

5. Parents' Association

I would like to thank the members of the Parents' Association Committee, and particularly Mrs Anne Ripley and Mrs Julia Thomas, for all the hard work which went into making the Summer Fun Day on Sunday 29th June such an enjoyable and successful occasion. Despite the poor weather, particularly during the early part of the afternoon, the event was well attended – and I am grateful to those of you who came and gave the Fun Day your support. Over £4400 was raised for school projects – an excellent and very pleasing figure.

6. Publication of A Level, AS and GCSE results

Results slips will be available for boys, or their responsible representatives, to collect as follows:

- a) **A Level and AS results: From 9.30am on Thursday 14th August.** Results which have not been collected by 2.00pm will be posted.
- b) **GCSE results: From 9.30am on Thursday 21st August.** Results which have not been collected by 2.00pm will be posted.

Please note the following:

- a) Admission to the school building will not be allowed before 9.30am.
- b) Results will not be given over the telephone unless previous arrangements have been agreed (eg because a boy is away on holiday on the day results are published).

7. Car parking

I advise parents that, from September, the school playground will no longer be available for use as a car park during the school day. With so many cars being parked on the playground each morning and afternoon, we are very concerned about the possibility of an accident and of injury to the boys. (The playground will be available for cars when we have such evening functions as Parents' Meetings, Concerts, etc.)

8. Uniform – and particularly footwear

Parents are asked to ensure that, when uniform is being purchased for boys, the school's uniform code is strictly adhered to. I particularly wish to remind parents about the rule governing footwear: 'Black leather shoes of plain design and with an unobtrusive method of fastening – suede shoes, boots, shoes with metal toe-caps, trainers, etc. are not permitted'. I should be grateful for parental support and cooperation here.

9. Beginning of term

Term begins for boys on **Wednesday 3rd September**. All boys are expected to be in their Form Rooms in time for Registration at 8.35am. **Fifth, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth boys are reminded that Senior Games will take place on the Wednesday afternoon – and boys should have their games kit with them on the first day of term.**

10. After school supervision

From September boys will be able to stay at school until 5.30pm if they so wish. They will have to be in the LRC and will be expected to get on with their homework or other private study. They will be supervised and there will be no charge to parents. We hope that this facility will be useful to parents who are not able to collect their sons at the end of the school day.

11. Dates for your diary

A full list of dates for next term will be enclosed with the beginning of term newsletter in September. I should, however, like to draw your attention to the following dates:

Friday 3rd October: Staff INSET day. The school will be closed on this day.

Saturday 4th October: Open Morning. This occasion is for parents who are considering BGSB for their sons. We will publicise the event in various ways, but I should be very grateful if you were willing to encourage those known to you who are thinking about their sons' schooling to come and see what we have to offer. Parents, as well as the boys themselves, are important ambassadors for the school and we should greatly appreciate your help and support here. Thank you.

Wednesday 22nd October: Prizegiving in the Victoria Hall, Bolton. Prizegiving is a whole school occasion for us, so that the whole community – boys, parents, staff and Governors – can be part of an annual celebration of the boys' achievements and successes. We use the Victoria Hall in Bolton simply because there is no venue in Bury able to accommodate us all.

The Guest of Honour will be The Rt Hon The Lord Hurd of Westwell – who as Douglas Hurd MP was successively Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Home Secretary and Foreign Secretary between 1984 and 1995. All boys will be required to attend – and I very much hope that all parents will be with us as well. If transport presents a problem for a boy, I should be grateful if parents would explore the possibility of the boy travelling with a friend and his parents.

12. Enclosures

- a) Reports for First, Second, Third and Fourth Formers
- b) ‘Connexions’ information for First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Formers
- c) Various items from the Parents’ Association (for all except Upper Sixth Formers)

I wish those going on our World Challenge expedition to Mongolia this summer a very enjoyable and enriching experience. (Plans are under way for a second expedition – to Peru in 2010.) I also wish the Upper Sixth the best of good fortune as they move on to the next stage of their careers. I thank them for all they have contributed to the life of the school during their time at BGSB and hope they will keep in touch with us. I look forward to sharing with them what I trust will be good news on 14th August.

I hope that you and the boys have a very enjoyable and refreshing summer holiday and that the boys will return in September ready for the opportunities and challenges of a new academic year.