

13<sup>th</sup> October 2008

To: All Parents

### **Newsletter : October 2008**

The response to our request for email addresses has been very encouraging. There are, however, several boys who have not yet returned forms to Form Tutors and we should appreciate these returns as soon as possible. While we await a complete set of forms, this newsletter is being sent by 'boy post'.

The academic year has started well for us and we are now looking forward to our Prizegiving next week – **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** in the Victoria Hall, Bolton. Prizegiving begins at 7.00pm and we aim to end at about 8.45pm. (Lessons end at 12.20pm that day and the buses will depart at 12.45pm.) I am writing to remind parents that this is a whole school occasion which all boys are required to attend. I very much hope that all parents will be with us as well. Attached to this letter is a sheet giving directions to the Victoria Hall, together with details of parking. If transport presents a problem for a boy, I should be grateful if parents would arrange for their son to travel with a friend and his parents.

At Prizegiving our Guest of Honour will be The Rt Hon 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. In addition to having had a distinguished political career, Lord Hurd is the author of several books. Last year he published a biography of Sir Robert Peel, one of Bury's famous sons. We are very fortunate that Lord Hurd has agreed to come to our Prizegiving to present the prizes and certificates and to address us.

#### **First Form Parents**

First Form parents are invited to two meetings after half-term. On **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November** the boys will be off timetable for the day and will be engaged in a study skills seminar. At **7.00pm** that day there will be a meeting for First Form parents, during which the work done with the boys will be summarized and parents given some information about how they can best support their son's learning. Your son is welcome, indeed encouraged, to accompany you to this evening session. Refreshments will be available and the meeting will last about an hour.

The First Form Parents' Meeting, when parents are able to meet with their son's subject teachers, will be held on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November from 5.00pm to 7.00pm**. We ask parents to sign in when they arrive and to sign out when they leave. We also ask, for the benefit of all parents attending the meeting, that individual interviews do not last more than 5 minutes. If a longer time is needed, parents are asked to make an appointment to come into school to meet with a member of staff at another time.

#### **Fourth Form Parents**

The Fourth Form Parents' Meeting, when parents are able to meet with their son's subject teachers, will be held on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November from 5.00pm to 7.00pm**. We ask parents to sign in when they arrive and to sign out when they leave. We also ask, for the benefit of all parents attending the meeting, that individual interviews do not last more than 5 minutes. If a longer time is needed, parents are asked to make an appointment to come into school to meet with a member of staff at another time.

#### **Congratulations**

a) Parents will be aware that, on 12<sup>th</sup> September, all the First Form boys took part in 'Heartbeat Bury'. This was a brand new initiative at BGSB and was used to launch both the school's move towards Healthy Schools Status as well as the new boys' Personal, Social and Health Education programme. During the day the boys participated in a range of activities related to healthy living. The activities included preparing healthy food and workshops on the dangers of smoking and on how to maintain a healthy heart. The boys also had their Body Mass Index calculated and took part in a fitness test. The day culminated in a sponsored two mile run and the boys raised £1115.12 for the British Heart Foundation.

b) Earlier in the term we were delighted to hear that one of our Lower Sixth students was among the highest scoring candidates in International GCSE Mathematics in this summer's examinations. **Nico Hobhouse**, who gained an A\* in all 12 of his GCSE subjects, was one of 19,213 candidates nationally who took the IGCSE in Mathematics and he was among the ten who achieved the highest overall marks.

c) In September our CCF entered two teams in the Northwest Cadet Skill at Arms meeting held at Altcar near Formby. The A Team came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, which was the best result for our CCF for 20 years.

#### **Half-term**

Half-term begins at **3.50pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** and the autumn term resumes at **8.30am on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**.

#### **Enclosures**

- a) Directions to the Victoria Hall, Bolton
- b) Homework timetable