

# Pleckgate High School Mathematics & Computing College



**Headteacher: Robin Campbell BSc NPQH**

July 2010

Dear Parent / Carer

Once again we find ourselves, far too rapidly, approaching the end of a busy term and successful school year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. I do hope that your child has had a successful year and participated in the opportunities that Pleckgate offers. Enclosed with this letter is another bumper edition of Pleckgate News packed with news and information for you to digest about the activities that have taken place throughout this year.

You will have seen in the media recently that Blackburn has been one of the few authorities that has been successful in protecting its Building Schools for the Future programme. I am delighted to inform you that the progress on our own build is on schedule. For those of you who haven't visited Pleckgate recently you will see a considerable amount of change at the rear of the school as the steel structure is nearing completion. Obviously much work remains to be done in the next academic year as we prepare for the move into the new school for September 2011.

There are a number of issues which I would draw to your attention as we prepare for the next school year.

- **Uniform.** We have always been proud of the Pleckgate uniform and many visitors comment on the smart appearance of pupils. However there seems to have been an increase in variations of some aspects of the uniform that have crept in during recent months. Attached to this letter is a leaflet identifying both appropriate and inappropriate footwear. Quite clearly the uniform list which is also enclosed identifies that black shoes are the order of the day. This does not include canvas or training type shoes as these do not provide sufficient support, particularly in Technology areas of school, where Health & Safety is an issue. In addition I would be grateful if parents could note the following:-
  - ❖ The Topee (headgear) is not part of the Pleckgate uniform although pupils may wear the Topee during prayer sessions at lunchtimes in school. However it is not part of the normal uniform to be worn around school.
  - ❖ Girls are permitted to wear headscarves as identified on the uniform list however these should be plain navy blue, preferably with a press-stud fastening and should not cover the remainder of the uniform.
  - ❖ We are seeing an increasing number of what might be considered 'extreme' haircuts (tramlines, shaved shapes cut in etc). Once again these are not acceptable in school; this is a place of learning and we do not need such distractions.

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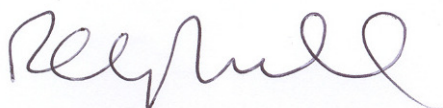
- **Absence from school during term time** – I am delighted to report a reduction in the number of pupils taking leave of absence during term time as parents are increasingly recognising the importance of full attendance in order to achieve success. However it is important that parents do realise that it is not an automatic right to take holidays during term time and only in exceptional circumstances will we permit extended absence abroad. We do appreciate your support in this matter as our intention is to work in partnership with you to ensure that your child achieves to his/her potential.
- **Mobile phones** – school policy is that mobile phones are not allowed to be switched on within the school buildings. They are a distraction, can be used inappropriately and are banned by exam boards. If pupils are caught using mobiles within the buildings, the phones will be confiscated, placed in a sealed envelope in the school safe and only returned to parents. The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones brought in by pupils.
- I mentioned earlier in the letter that our building plans are progressing well. I wish to take this opportunity to reassure you that our focus next year will not only be on planning for the new school but more importantly on the pupils currently in our school building and our efforts will be directed in ensuring that they all achieve to their potential.

I would be most grateful for your support with these issues. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time if there is anything you wish to discuss as our continued partnership is essential.

Finally a reminder that pupils in all years return to school **in full winter uniform on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**. Year 7 should report to school for an 8.30 am start, the remaining year groups, 8 to 11, should report at 9.45 am.

May I wish you and your family a relaxing and enjoyable holiday period.

Yours sincerely



R CAMPBELL  
Headteacher

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