

Our Ref: EAM/CR

10<sup>th</sup> September 2004

Dear Parents

The new year has started extremely well. The pupils look absolutely superb – thank you so much for that – and the new skirts and trousers especially have met with the approval of the girls. They certainly do look great.

Some of you who had read the Westmorland Gazette during the holiday must have wondered if I would actually be here this September to welcome your child. Well, yes I am. I am also leading the Lakes School, Windermere as Acting Head for this term only until a new appointment is made. It will be a busy term for me but I am certainly still here as Head of Dowdales for you and your children!

59% of Year 11 last year achieved 5 or more GCSE grades A\*-C. I certainly did not decline to comment as was reported in the Evening Mail – I wasn't asked! Had I been asked I would have congratulated all the pupils on their achievements – there were some brilliant performances at all grades and we are delighted for those pupils. We now begin again with this year's Year 11 pupils to ensure they gain the highest grades they possible can.

We are introducing some changes for Year 11 this year to meet Government guidance and to maximise each pupils chance of success. So

- The “mock examinations” will be renamed GCSE Preliminary Exams and held immediately after Easter on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April.
- There will not be study leave for pupils.
- All pupils will be in school through the examination period and will leave school at the end of the examination period in June when there will be a “Leaving Assembly” for them, followed by the Year 11 Prom.
- We will not grant leave of absence for holidays to any pupil in Year 11.
- We will monitor your child's performance and progress regularly and keep you fully informed. If you wish to contact us at any time regarding your child please do so. We want you to be involved in their learning.

There are obviously many events and important dates highlighted in this calendar but it is absolutely crucial that parents note when the KS3 tests, module tests and GCSE examinations are. It is vital that pupils do not miss lessons, particularly in KS4 (Years 10 and 11) because of their coursework, module tests, in class assessments and the disruption to their learning in general.

Unfortunately residents of Myrtle Terrace have complained about parents parking when dropping off their children. Please could you be mindful of causing congestion problems to the residents. Also, particularly for new Year 7 parents, please do not park on the school drive when dropping off or waiting to collect your children as this causes a real health and safety issue with the buses.

I often say to the pupils – Always strive to be the best you can be – I say it to myself and the staff too. It is what we are here for.

I am looking forward to working with you over the next 12 months and to meeting you at one of the many events during the year.

Best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely



Mrs E A Moffatt