



PARENTS NEWSLETTER MAY 2017

Ofsted report

I hope that you have all had the opportunity to read and enjoy our recent Ofsted inspection report. Thank you for your continued support and partnership; it really is a privilege and joy to lead this very special school.

Apologies that as a result of the inspection I missed my deadline for an April newsletter. I hope you will accept the report in its place.

Sarah Crouch is starting her maternity leave this week

I know that you will join me in sending Sarah all best wishes as she starts her maternity leave this week. She is hoping to return in 9 months or so and in the meantime Chris Cole (KS4 lead) will be acting deputy head teacher and Julie Lloyd (6th form lead) will be acting assistant head teacher. We will miss Sarah enormously and I am grateful to Chris and Julie for ensuring the smoothest possible hand over.

School Funding

I rarely choose to mix education with politics but it seems that with the general election pending now is a good time to talk about school funding. Governors share my concerns and endorse my bringing it to your attention. You may have seen the BBC news recently highlighting this issue.

Historically Granta, along with most schools, has managed to successfully run a positive balance. That means that we have been able to respond to any crisis or emergency and been able to keep a very good range of opportunities and interventions running.

Like most schools we are experiencing increased difficulty and although we have managed to set a balanced budget this year, it is only by making some very hard decisions. For example, next term will be the last term of Abbey Pool swimming for older students. Other interventions will have less time in the new September timetable and any new initiatives will be delayed. Playground areas that need refurbishing will be reliant on the generosity of charities and off site activities that require additional staffing will be curtailed. These are the realities of funding pressures.

Extra curricular activities

Last Friday pupils were treated to a visit from our sports partnership organisation to learn circus skills. The focus was on balance and control which is of physical benefit in a very fun and engaging way.

KS4 have had their hugely successful residential trip to Bendrigg and a report will be on our website soon. Pupils of all abilities were able to experience canoeing, abseiling, archery, climbing and caving, not to mention hill walking and staying away from home. Those who preferred to stay at school had a successful and enjoyable activity week including drama, painting a wonderful school mural and pond dipping. My sincere thanks to all the staff who made it possible. They all had a great time and discovered new skills and qualities which will take them forward in the future.

Building on KS4 outward bounds, our intrepid 6th form students have once again excelled themselves on their Duke of Edinburgh expedition. We are one of the most successful schools in the county in delivering on this award and my students continue to inspire and amaze me, each and every year. Well done to you all.

Alison Goodfellow is retiring after 11 years of working at Granta. Some of you will recall she successfully led KS2 and more recently moved into our Early Years class. I will be able to let you know about our future plans in the next newsletter but for now want to record my personal thanks to her for all her service and support.

Parents of 6th form students are reminded about the Learning Disability Partnership (LDP) drop in sessions happening here soon. You should have received a notice about this recently. This is an opportunity to find out more about what support is available as your child moves into adult services. Val in the office can provide more details.

Half Term

It is hard to believe half term is already nearly here. Just a quick reminder that school is closed Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June.

Wishing you all a happy and sunny short break

Best wishes
Lucie