



Carre's Grammar School

Northgate Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 7DD
Headteacher N M Law

9 September 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

To the majority - welcome back to Carre's – and to those who are new to the school – a very warm welcome. I hope that you and your family have enjoyed a good holiday this summer. I have pleasure in writing to you with a summary of current news from the school and information about key forthcoming events. Although we are now an Academy, little has ostensibly changed and the values and ethos of the school remain the same – respect, resilience, integrity, care, good manners, openness and honesty all remain at our core. We aim to turn out well-rounded young people with explicit core values, and as a school community we strive to unlock the potential that each one has. The number on the school roll is now over 800, but this remains a relatively small school which means individuals can be treated as such.

Public Exam Success

This year has been another good one for the school in terms of public examination results. We pride ourselves on teaching beyond the exam requirements at GCSE, AS and A2 and on not 'spoon-feeding' our students whilst also enabling them to engage in a very busy programme of enrichment activities, which see Carre's students moving on to the next level, be it A levels, diplomas, College courses, University or employment.

At A Level we registered our 'best ever' performance, with nearly 52% of entries being graded A or B. Four students who held offers to Oxford or Cambridge University achieved the requisite grades and have been accepted on their courses. Head Boy Kieran Harden will study Medicine at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford; Austin Wellbelove will read Theology at Trinity College, Oxford; Tom Watson Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at Clare College, Cambridge; and Daniel Tarry will read Geography at Mansfield College, Oxford. The majority of our students have achieved results that enable them to progress to Higher Education, with many of them going to some of the country's top Universities to read a rich variety of courses.

At GCSE the pass rate was over 99% 5A*-C, and the government's English Baccalaureate measure was a remarkable 84.2%. Just under 50% achieved 5 or more grades at A*/A.

These results have built upon the achievements of last year, with an upward trend of improvement, and are testament to the partnership and hard work of the students, dedicated staff and parents. Students in Years 11 and 13 have a lot to live up to!

International Schools Award

Carre's Grammar School has recently been awarded the International Schools Gold Award by the British Council. This prestigious award is only awarded to schools who can demonstrate a strong and sustained international dimension to their curriculum, both inside and outside the classroom. During the course of the previous academic year, Carre's has not only strengthened its already vibrant international partnership with the Ahmadou Ndack Seck school in Senegal, but has also established partnerships with schools in China, Germany, France and Spain. Students from Carre's visited China at the end of April this year to participate in a Joint Engineering Project with their exchange partners at Zhuhai Experimental Middle School. The Chinese students then returned to Sleaford to complete the project in July. The award lasts for three years until 2014 but the school will not be resting on its laurels. There is already an exchange visit to Spain planned for November this year and it is hoped that there will be both a PE Project Visit to Senegal and a return visit to China in the near future.

Staff News

Three colleagues departed in July, Mr Kevin Moss and Mr Lawrence Hanlon, both from the Maths Faculty, and Mrs Dawn Smith has also departed to pursue a career in teaching. We wish them all well.

With the increase in numbers over the last three years, this has necessitated the expansion of the teaching staff to ensure that all students receive high quality education in appropriately sized groups.

Joining us will be Victoria Wiseman, who has moved from the Ashmole Academy to become the 2nd in Maths; Mr Graham Hill in the Maths Faculty; Mrs Beverley Ditton from Sir William Robertson High School to teach English; Mrs Joanne Livsey becomes the school's first Cookery teacher from The Priory LSST; Alexandra Goldstraw into the Science Faculty; and Salomé Boehler, who has worked at Carre's before, has joined the MFL Faculty.

We also welcome back Mrs Ruth Quinton as Head of Music, following her maternity leave.

Some very sad news, I am afraid. John Cattermole, who worked in the Technology Faculty at Carre's before he retired, passed away recently after losing his fight with cancer. He was a larger than life character who made a huge impact upon all those with whom he came into contact. He remained a friend to the school and he will be sadly and sorely missed by us all.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Starting this year the school will be offering the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme to students in Year 10. The scheme comprises of four sections that need to be fulfilled over a six month period to achieve the Bronze Award. The sections are Volunteering, Skills, Physical and The Expedition. The scheme promotes teamwork, self-reliance, resilience, confidence and responsibility. It also gives students a chance to develop skills for the work place. Initially there will be 24 places; Miss Chaddock will be publicising the scheme with Year 10 in the coming weeks.

Building Work

There has been a programme of refurbishment and redecoration throughout the school, with the external décor now more befitting a school of Carre's standing. We received a grant from the Wolfson Foundation, and this has allowed us to completely refurbish and re-fit the last of the Science rooms that seemed to aspire to a Dickensian age. Several rooms have been fitted with Interactive Whiteboards and all teaching rooms now have PCs to enhance the learning environment for the students. We will be extending the canteen with a conservatory, which will expand both the working space for the sixth form and the eating space for all students. It is to be hoped that we will continue to expand and improve upon our facilities now that we have more control over our budget due to our Academy status, and we hope that students will continue to show the same degree of respect towards the buildings as has usually been the case.

Calendar

This can be found on the website. The website should be the first point of reference for school news and events.

Parents' Cars on the School Site

May I remind parents that we do not allow the dropping off of students on the school site after 8.00am for safety reasons. Similarly, in the afternoons, parents should not bring cars onto the site before 4.30pm.

Music

Carre's Grammar School offers music tuition to pupils in the following:

Violin	Woodwind
Guitar	Brass
Drums	Piano
Cello/Double Bass	Voice

The school makes a financial commitment to employ music tutors for the whole of the academic year and therefore we require parents to make a similar commitment, to book and pay for their son's music tuition for the whole school year.

Invoices are issued each term and are averaged over the 6 terms to give equal payments regardless of the number of weeks in the term. Amendments are made **only** if the tutor fails to offer the lesson. Consideration will obviously be given if there are exceptional circumstances which mean a pupil has to stop lessons mid year. We would ask therefore, that parents consider seriously the financial cost and commitment before agreeing to their son taking lessons.

The school is pleased to be able to inform parents that even though we have moved to Academy status there will still be a discount applied if you qualify for any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (not contribution based)
- Child Tax Credit (Income less than £16,190)
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999

The discount is 50% and documentary evidence **must be seen** for this to be applied. Please contact our Finance Department if you wish to discuss this further. We are not able to offer any discount for siblings who also take music lessons. This service has also been withdrawn by County Music Services and would, therefore, no longer be available even if we hadn't become an Academy. We are still using teachers provided by County Music Services and charges will be as follows:

- £32.60 per hour
- £16.30 per half hour individual lesson
- £10.87 for a 20 minute individual lesson.

Shared lessons are calculated accordingly.

Prices per term: Individual lesson - £97.80	2 sharing	- £48.60
3 sharing - £32.58	20 minutes	- £65.22

Cashless Catering

Cashless catering has been in place since October 2009. Please could I remind parents to ensure that sufficient funds are uploaded onto Parent Pay for their child's lunches. You should be aware that overdrafts will no longer be permitted in the dining hall. Instead, parents will be sent an email to warn them when their son's balance goes below £5, and each student will be automatically allowed the price of a 'meal deal' (£2.20) if there are insufficient funds in their account. This will hopefully increase the efficiency in the dining hall, and help to reduce waste.

Mobile Phones

Whilst we appreciate that many parents like their children to have a mobile phone with them, and we support this in principle, we will not accept them being used in lessons as they disrupt the learning of others. The school cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage. Phones should be switched off and kept out of sight during lessons. Breaches of this will result in the phone being confiscated and be made available for return at the school office at the end of the day. Should this happen a second time, parents will be required to collect the phone in person from the school office.

Uniform and Appearance

We have a formal uniform which reflects the traditions of the school and our policy in school uniform is stated in the prospectus and on the school website. We expect our students to maintain high standards of dress during the school day and when also when travelling to and from school. This means that shirts/blouses should be tucked in, for boys top buttons should be done up and blazers/jackets should be worn. Hooded tops are not part of our uniform, and neither are extreme

hairstyles. Boys have been given House badges and should wear these on their blazers. For boys, piercing is not permitted, and they should be clean shaven. The dress code is also intended to respect cultural sensitivities. If there are any concerns, then I would be happy to discuss this with parents.

School Term Dates and Holidays

The school term dates are published on the school's website as well as printed at the end of this letter. I would respectfully request that holidays are not taken during term time and requests will not normally be authorised, except in exceptional circumstances. Nationally, Government policy is to encourage schools to minimise the amount of teaching and learning time lost as a result of term-time holidays. Schools are now expected to adopt a much more challenging response to requests for leave for such holidays, and this is the stance of our school.

Behaviour on Contract Transport

Despite frequent reminders of our expectations, we are always concerned about any unsatisfactory behaviour on the journeys to and from school. We would be grateful if you would reinforce our expectations by reminding your son about the importance of remaining seated during the journey. Behaviour such as shouting or throwing objects is clearly unacceptable. All students sign a code of conduct regarding travel which makes it clear that poor behaviour may result in a ban from using school transport.

Key Forthcoming Events

Some of the most important forthcoming events are as follows:

12 September	Year 12 Information Evening
19 September	KS3 Information Evening
26 September	KS4 Information Evening
27 September	Year 10 History Trip (Sleaford Navigation)
28 September	Individual photos for Years 7, 9, 11, 12
6 October	Year 10 GCSE Drama Trip
7 October	Year 9 Geography Trip (Peak District)
12 October	Sixth Form Open Evening
14 October	Sponsored Walk
18 October	French Exchange visit leaves
19 October	Open Day
20 October	Year 7 Parent/Tutor consultation
20 October	End of Term 1
21 October	Training Day
25 October	Return of French Exchange visit
31 October	Start of Term 2
1 November	Year 13 Geography Trip (Sheffield)
2 November	Year 13 Parents' Evening
3 November	Spanish Exchange visit leaves
8 November	Year 12/13 Ethics & Philosophy conference (Cambridge)
9 November	Return of Spanish Exchange visit
	Shakespeare School Festival, Lincoln Drill Hall, 7pm
11 November	Year 7 English Trip 'A Christmas Carol' (Lincoln)
12-13 November	World Challenge Training Expedition (Buxton)
16 November	Year 11 Geography Trip (York)
24 November	Year 10 Parents' Evening
28 November	Year 11 Mock Exams
1 December	Year 7 Drama Trip (Stratford)
12 and 13 December	Drama Production
14 December	Senior Prizegiving at St Denys' Church
15 December	Curriculum Day
16 December	Christmas Celebration at St Denys' Church
16 December	End of Term 2

Finally, I would like to thank parents for their support and encouragement in the education of our students and wish you and your family all the best for 2011-12.

Yours sincerely



N M Law
Headteacher

CARRE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL DATES FOR 2011/12

SCHOOL TERMS

Term 1 Monday 5 September 2011 to Thursday 20 October 2011

Term 2 Monday 31 October 2011 to Friday 16 December 2011

Term 3 Wednesday 4 January 2012 to Friday 10 February 2012

Term 4 Monday 20 February 2012 to Friday 30 March 2012

Term 5 Tuesday 17 April 2012 to Friday 1 June 2012

Term 6 Monday 11 June 2012 to Thursday 19 July 2012

Bank Holidays: Monday 26 December 2011
Tuesday 27 December 2011
Monday 2 January 2012
Friday 6 April 2012
Monday 9 April 2012
Monday 7 May 2012
Monday 4 June 2012
Tuesday 5 June 2012

SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING DAYS

Thursday 1 September 2011
Friday 2 September 2011
Friday 21 October 2011
Tuesday 3 January 2012
Monday 16 April 2012