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Carre's Grammar School

Northgate Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 7DD
Headteacher N M Law

6 September 2012

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.

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. The majority of the 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. Some of our students have joined the Forces; one has a lucrative position at Deloitte Touche, whilst others have taken up apprenticeships in top companies, such as Rolls Royce and Siemens.

At A Level 50% of our entries were graded A* to B. Three students who held offers to Oxford or Cambridge University achieved the requisite grades and have been accepted on their courses. Peter Carey, with 4A* will read Engineering at Robinson College, Cambridge, while Dale Line (Oriental College) and Oliver Vince (University College) will also read Engineering at Oxford.

At GCSE the pass rate was over 99% 5A*-C, and just under 50% achieved 5 or more grades at A*/A. Oliver Shepherd achieved a remarkable 11A*, while Matthew Cheng, Patrick Devlin, Chris Whitaker and Jonathan Liston achieved all A* and A grades, whilst many more achieved a raft of top grades, which seems to fly in the face of some of the recent press coverage. Our English Language grades were very pleasing and in line with our expectations, whilst in Maths the results were excellent, surpassing all expectations.

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. This year's students in Years 11 and 13 have a lot to live up to!

Staff News

The departure of colleagues, maternity leave and the further expansion in the numbers in the school has necessitated the expansion of the teaching staff to ensure that all students receive high quality education in appropriately sized groups. Mrs Alexandra Goldstraw (Science) has relocated to the USA with her family, and Mr Graham Hill (Maths) will be taking time out to be with his family. Both are very talented and committed teachers and I hope that they will return, if not to Carre's, to the profession in the future. Mr Victor Postoyalko has retired, having been with us for 7 years in the Science Faculty, previously having worked in a variety of schools in Bradford and Lincolnshire. His avuncular and yet scholarly approach to Chemistry has been the key to the success for a generation of students at Carre's.

Joining us this September are Miss Kate Willoughby and Mr Tom Peters, who are starting their teaching careers with us in the Maths Department. In the same department, Mr John West is doing the maternity cover for Mrs Rachael Needham, who gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Olivia, in August. In her absence Miss Victoria Wiseman is the Head of Maths. Mr David Findlay re-joins the staff as maternity cover for Mrs Leah Kirkman. He has been the Head of English at the Malling School in Kent for the past two years. In the Science Department Dr Brian Simmons joins us from The Charles Read Academy, and Mrs Keren Seymour starts her teaching career with us having had a successful career in the RAF. In Humanities Mrs Sally Wilson resumes her teaching career and will be teaching both History and Geography. In Music Mr

Tom Roberts is doing the maternity cover for Mrs Kate Karumazondo. Miss Lauren Flint completes the new staff, having taken on the role of Fitness Instructor in the school's Fitness Suite.

Mr Roger Lochhead retired in April after over 16 years with us as Site Manager. The excellent state of the buildings is testimony to the hard work that he put in. His role has been taken on by Mr John White.

In the Sixth Form Office Mrs Rachel Brook has taken up the duties, and in the main school office, Mrs Dawn Feneley joined us in July.

School Day

Following a consultation last academic year with staff, governors, parents and transport operators, the school day now finishes at **3.40pm**. This is five minutes earlier than has previously been the case, and does not affect any transport arrangements, or anything else within the school day. The time has been taken from the afternoon registration, which will now take place in the first lesson after lunch; this will lessen movement time around the school and optimise learning time.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The school now offers the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme to students in Year 10 and 11. The scheme comprises 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 and Miss Chaddock will be publicising the scheme with Year 10 students in the coming weeks.

Building Work

There has been a programme of refurbishment and redecoration throughout the school. We have redeveloped the Big School Hall to create a Drama Studio, a conservatory has been constructed to create extra workspace, a new Canopy has been erected in the quad to create a sheltered area for students both before and during school, the main IT room has been completely refurbished and the main Art Room is being refurbished, with work already underway with this.

The school will continue to develop its premises to best support all aspects of teaching and learning.

School Vision and Strategy

The staff and governors have been working on shaping the vision and strategy for the school for the next five years. As an Academy we have the opportunity to shape our own destiny to a large extent, government interference notwithstanding. Our vision and strategy can be found on the school website; click the 'About' tab and scroll down to '[Vision and Strategy](#)'. Any feedback on this is more than welcome as we would like every member of the Carre's community to feel that it has part to play in shaping the future direction of the school.

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 8am 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 students 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 student 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 *and* a copy of which is held on our files for audit purposes. 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 - £32.60	20 minutes	- £65.20
	(Singing and drums)	

Cashless Catering

Cashless catering is in place in the school's Dining Hall ('The Chill'). Please could I remind parents to ensure that sufficient funds are uploaded onto ParentPay for their child's lunches. You should be aware that overdrafts are not permitted except in extreme circumstances.

Trip Refunds

We try to keep the cost of trips to a minimum, but sometimes there is a small surplus. Where this is the case the balance will be paid directly to the student's ParentPay account.

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 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.

The Games Kit that is part of the school uniform is in a transitional phase. There is a new Games Kit, which can be purchased from Sleaford Clothing, that is compulsory for Year 7 students. It is hard wearing and reflects your son's house – each shirt has the main body in red and the sleeves, sides and collars are in the House colour.

Lost Property

Please could I remind all parents to clearly label their child's property. The school office constantly strives to return items that have been found, but this is only possible if the item is clearly named.

Student Absences

If your son/daughter is ill, please ensure that you inform the school office on the first day of absence and that you keep the office informed if the absence is likely to last a few days.

Contact Details

Please also remember to inform the school office of any changes to your contact details, be it a change of address, home phone number or mobile number. It is vital that this information is kept up to date in case of an emergency whilst your child is in school.

School Term Dates and Holidays

The school term dates are published on the school's website and are also published at the end of this newsletter. 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.

Head Lice

We were informed by a parent during the school holidays that her son had experienced Head Lice whilst in school. If your child does have Head Lice, please inform the school office immediately so that other parents can be notified.

Key Forthcoming Events

Some of the most important forthcoming events are as follows:

10 September	KS5 Information Evening
17 September	KS3 Information Evening
24 September	KS4 Information Evening
26 September	European Day of Languages
3-4 October	KS3 Play
10 October	Sleaford Joint Sixth Form Open Evening
17 October	Open Day
24 October	Year 7 Settling-In Meetings
25 October	Sponsored Walk
25 October	END OF TERM ONE
26 October	Staff Training Day
5 November	START OF TERM TWO
7 November	Year 13 Parents' Evening
22 November	Year 10 Parents' Evening
12 December	Music Concert
13 December	Christmas Dinner – Years 7, 10 and 11
19 December	Christmas Dinner – Years 8, 9 and Sixth Form
19 December	Senior Prizegiving
20 December	Curriculum Day
21 December	Carol Service
21 December	END OF TERM TWO

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 2012-13.

Yours faithfully



N M Law
Headteacher



CARRE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL DATES FOR 2012/13

SCHOOL TERMS

Term 1 Wednesday 5 September 2012 to Thursday 25 October 2012

Term 2 Monday 5 November 2012 to Friday 21 December 2012

Term 3 Tuesday 8 January 2013 to Friday 15 February 2013

Term 4 Monday 25 February 2013 to Wednesday 27 March 2013

Term 5 Monday 15 April 2013 to Friday 24 May 2013

Term 6 Monday 3 June 2013 to Tuesday 23 July 2013

BANK HOLIDAYS

Tuesday 25 December 2012
Wednesday 26 December 2012
Friday 29 March 2013
Monday 1 April 2013
Monday 6 May 2013
Monday 27 May 2013

SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING DAYS

Monday 3 September 2012
Tuesday 4 September 2012
Friday 26 October 2012
Monday 7 January 2013
Thursday 28 March 2013