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Carre's Grammar School

Northgate Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 7DD
Headteacher N M Law

3 September 2015

NL/JB

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, information about key forthcoming events, and some reminders about the routines of the school, which will be familiar to most, but new to many.

Public Exam Success

We are always very proud of the achievements of our **A-level** candidates, and this year is no exception. 58% of all grades were A*-B, and it was particularly pleasing to see that so many achieved personal success and improved over time as a result of their hard work and determination to achieve their best. The results represent a fantastic achievement for the students, who came from a whole range of schools to study in the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form, and this demonstrates the strength of the collaboration between the staff of the schools in the town. Staff, students and parents worked exceedingly hard together in challenging subjects and they achieved highly in these areas. 90% of the students achieved results that enabled them to take up their offers at University, many of them at the country's top institutions, whilst others have chosen to take a gap year, apprenticeship, join one of the Forces or go into employment. In addition to their academic results, the year group made a significant contribution to the wider life of the school and developed skills which they will find invaluable in their roles as future leaders in their chosen careers and will open doors for our students.

At **AS** the year group turned in some excellent results, with the large majority meeting or improving upon their target grades. This bodes well for them, given that they are half way through their courses, and with continued hard work and application they should be able to remain in control of their own destiny come August next year.

At **GCSE** there has been some volatility with the results this year and we have made appeals to the different exam boards, so as it stands the pass rate was 100% 5A*-C, but including English and Maths is 96%. Just under 50% achieved 5 or more grades at A*/As and a large number of students also achieved a raft of top grades, but *importantly*, all students achieved the grades that have allowed them to go onto the next stage of their education, be it with us at Carre's, or at another institution; the hard work put in has paid off.

Student Achievements

Five Sixth Form students, Michael Browning, Maxim Burrows, Alisdair Campbell, Tim Gutteridge and Conor O'Leary cycled from Newcastle to London in 24 hours, as part of the 'Ride 24' Challenge.' The boys have been training for months, and each of the boys had to raise at least £500 for their chosen charities. The event was split into seven stages with minimal rest stops every 45 miles or so, right through the night – with the midnight stop being at Carre's. This shows

massive commitment and social awareness from these boys and proves that the values school works hard to develop, are so well instilled into its students.

Year 11 student Will Hopkins enjoyed a wonderful golf season in 2015, including many victories and honours, the most notable being his impressive 5-stroke victory in the National Under-16's Championship at Kirby Muxloe on 20 July 20, with rounds of 68 and 73. In the process he became Carre's' first ever national champion golfer and one of very few in the school's history across all sports. This victory earned Will a place on the England team to play in the other home international against Wales, in which he played his part in an England win at Sherwood Forest Golf Club, managing a half in his singles match as England defeated the visitors by one point, 9½ - 8½ . Will and the staff at Carre's are eagerly anticipating his second England cap, which will come when he faces Scotland on 14 September in Kilmarnock.

Year 13 student Chris Davies, who represents Great Britain in triathlon, has competed in various events and continues to perform exceedingly well. Notably, he won a bronze medal in Liverpool at the British Standard Distance Championships.

Multi-Academy Trust Formation

The Robert Carre Trust came into being on 1 September as Kesteven and Sleaford High School Selective Academy joined the Trust. You may be aware that their Headteacher, Mr Craig Booker, decided to leave to pursue other career ambitions, and Mrs Jo Smith has taken on the role of Interim Head of School. The formation of the Multi-Academy Trust creates an excellent opportunity for all of the young people in Sleaford. Sharing good practice and ideas and learning from one another can only be beneficial, and we shall look for the areas that the students can work together, such as Art, Drama, Music and Sports, as well as collaboration in the Sixth Form. Working together in an inclusive environment in which all the young people matter will improve both choices and opportunities for everyone in the town and beyond. I expect both schools to maintain and develop their ethos, culture, identity, uniform and traditions for the benefit of their students whilst working towards a common vision.

There will be changes to the governance of the school, and these will appear on the school website in due course.

Staff News

Mr Mike Haines has retired for the second time. He very gallantly stepped in to teach in the Ethics and Philosophy department for a year. **Mr Tom Peters** takes up a post at Toot Hill Academy and I am sure that his career will go from strength to strength. Although he was appointed as a Maths teacher, he proved to be so much more than that, throwing himself wholeheartedly into school life and making an impact wherever he has been. One of the most inspirational and influential members of staff, **Dr Malcolm Moyes**, has retired after being with us for 17 years. He has been Head of English, and latterly Assistant Headteacher, with a real passion for teaching and learning. He has been the wise old sage for many of us, the voice of reason with a measured and thoughtful approach to all things. His intellectual rigour, excellence as a teacher, energy and drive marked him out as an exceptional member of staff, with a teaching style that was idiosyncratic and committed to the needs of the students. A published author, I know that he will be writing more books, as well as watching his beloved Barnsley FC and spending more time with his equally beloved grandchildren.

Several new staff have joined us this September; **Mrs Amy Angell** in the Ethics and Philosophy department after several successful years at The Bourne Academy. **Mrs Lorraine Marr** comes into the Maths department, having previously worked at Grantham College. **Mrs Angela Morrissey** has taken up the post of Learning Resource Manager. We welcome **Mrs Megan Brook** into the Geography Department and **Mrs Karen Handley** into the History department. I am delighted to say

that **Mr Ewan Davies** has successfully completed his apprenticeship with us and has become a full time IT technician. **Dr Edmund White** is staying with us at Carre's in the English department, having completed his training here. As trainees in September we welcome **Mr Dan Smith**, **Miss Jessica Sutton** and **Miss Kelsey McBride** into the Maths, PE and English departments, respectively.

Heads of Year

There have been changes to the school's excellent pastoral system, with the introduction of Heads of Year to oversee the academic and pastoral development of students in different year groups to further strengthen the support that we give to the students. The form tutors remain as the first point of contact for the majority of issues, but please see the Heads of Year as an additional point of contact if required.

Year 7	Mrs Brooks	Also SENCo and Safeguarding Officer
Year 8	Mrs Goymer	
Year 9	Mr Newell	
Year 10	Miss Willoughby	
Year 11	Mr Matthew Wilson	Also Pastoral Leader, Year 8 to 11
Year 12	Mr Smith	
Year 13	Mr Pickard	

Building Work

Once again there has been a comprehensive programme of refurbishment and redecoration throughout the school as we continue to take great pride in creating the best learning environment possible. Our rolling programme of re-decoration has continued in the tower block alongside extensive refurbishment in the Learning Resource Centre and student toilets. There is further work planned to create extra teaching space and resurface the all-weather pitch.

School Sponsored Walk

This will take place on Thursday 22 October, and will be the first annual joint walk between Carre's Grammar School and KSHSSA. This year we are raising funds for charities that will be nominated by each Key Stage in the individual schools, in addition to school funds.

Last year we raised over £19,500, inclusive of Gift Aid, which was shared with 50% to school funds and 50% from each Key Stage to their chosen charities. This year we will once again be able to Gift Aid money raised.

The walk is 12 miles long and usually takes between three and four hours. Students will be free to leave school as soon as they have checked in after the walk. You may, therefore, wish to make some alternative travel arrangements for your child. Those students who will be travelling home at the normal time will be supervised until the usual departure time. There will be no teaching on this day.

Mrs Blair will be sending out further details shortly.

Arts Award

During the first term we will be signing up students to Arts Award. Arts Award is a scheme that develops and rewards students' practical and leadership skills in all forms of Art, Drama, Music, Dance and Creative Writing. Activities will be taking place in twice weekly lunch clubs, but students can also gain the award and be rewarded for activities they take part in outside of school, such as New Youth Theatre or other external arts activities.

To find out more ask your Art teacher for further information.

Music

Band rehearsals will be on a Monday lunchtime, and Choir rehearsals on a Friday lunchtime. I would like to encourage as many students as possible to get involved in this important aspect of school life and make the most of the opportunities that the Music Department at Carre's affords. Research shows that music is critical in a child's development and studies have shown that children who are exposed to a music education will have a positive effect on the brain and, as such, it can increase their IQ as well as help in their language development. There will be a concert on 17 November – 'Bond and Beyond', and we are also taking part in the County Music Service's 'Sing Carmina' project - participating in a choir of 350 singing *Carmina Burana* in Lincoln Cathedral on 30 January. Any student who wants to take part needs to see Mrs Quinton for a letter.

Calendar

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

School Term Dates and Holidays

The school term dates are also published on the school's website. 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 remains our position. For further information about the school's position on absences, please see our new Attendance Policy on the school website at: [\\Cgsweb\extranetpublic\\$\Policies\Whole School\Policy - Attendance NEW.pdf](\\Cgsweb\extranetpublic$\Policies\Whole School\Policy - Attendance NEW.pdf)

Internal Examinations

As a school, we feel that it is important that during their time at Carre's the students build up experience of the formal examination process to prepare for the external public examinations taken in Years 11, 12 and 13. For the students this will be an opportunity to prepare for assessments that cover a larger body of work than those they might do as part of their normal studies, and they should take note of the advice and guidance provided by their subject teachers in terms of revision and exam techniques.

Your son/daughter should view these exams as an opportunity to see how successful their revision and learning techniques are and how effectively they are able to cope with the examination process. He or she should, therefore, spend time revising actively to ensure that effective and efficient revision techniques for the exams in each subject area are in place.

- Exams for students in Years 7 and 8 will take place during week commencing Monday 27 June 2016.
- Exams for Year 9 students will take place during week commencing Monday 21 March 2016.
- Exams for students in Year 10 will take place during the weeks commencing 18 and 25 April 2016.
- GCSE mock examinations for Year 11 students will take place during the weeks commencing 23 and 30 November 2015.
- Year 12 examinations will take place during week commencing Monday 22 February 2016.
- Year 13 examinations will take place during week commencing Monday 1 February 2016.

Parents' Cars on the School Site

May I remind parents that for safety reasons we do not allow the dropping off of students on the school site after 8am. Similarly, in the afternoons, parents should not bring cars onto the site before 4.30pm.

Safeguarding

Could I please remind parents of boys in Years 7-11 wishing to take their son out of school during the day that they should report to the school reception where their son will be handed over by office staff. This procedure is to make sure that boys are safely delivered to their parents.

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.

Lost Property

On the last day of each term we have a Lost Property amnesty. All unmarked property is put out for students to recognise and claim. Any unclaimed items after the amnesty are given to charity. It would be most helpful if your child's property is named as this makes it easier to hand back property which is often claimed to have been 'stolen', when, in the majority of cases, it has been left unwittingly somewhere in the school.

Payment for Trips

The preferred method of payment for all school trips will be via ParentPay and we hope to extend this to include payments for Music tuition in the near future. If you would rather pay via an alternative method, please contact the Finance Office.

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, unless requested otherwise.

Wireless Network and Mobile Devices

The school network has been further upgraded and there is a wireless network throughout the school. This is to help with administration, but, more importantly, with teaching and learning. We have seen the benefits for the Sixth Form students who use their own devices, largely for research and accessing online resources, and would like to roll this out to the whole school. Mobile phones may be used for this purpose only during lessons, with the teacher's permission, and as previously, breaches of this will result in the phone being confiscated and being 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.

The school cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage of personal devices.

The school has a policy in place regarding the use of mobile devices – please see the school website www.carres.lincs.sch.uk under Publications/Policies/Whole school/ICT Bring Your Own Device (BYOD).

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. 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, please contact the appropriate Head of Year.

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.

e-Access Registration

Access to your child's online data, such as attendance information, progress grades and student events, is available via the school website – please click on the relevant link on the school home page.

Vacancies

The school has vacancies for relief/temporary part time cleaners and relief/temporary part time catering assistants. For further information, please contact the Headteacher's PA on 01529 302181.

The closing date for applications is Friday 18 September.

Key Forthcoming Events

Some of the most important forthcoming events for this term are as follows:

3 September	START OF TERM ONE (Year 7, 12, 13)
4 September	START OF TERM ONE (Year 8, 9, 10, 11)
14 September	Year 12 Information Evening
15 September	Ireland Rugby Tour Meeting
21 September	School Photographs (Year 7, 9, 11 and new Year 12)
21 September	Primary School Rowing Competition
21 September	Year 7 Information Evening
28 September	Year 10 Information Evening
29 September	Year 12 Geography Conference
8 October	Music Trip to Lincoln Odeon
13 October	Primary School Cycling Competition
14 October	Open Day for students wishing to join Year 7 in September 2016
14 October	Sixth Form Open Evening
17-31 October	Live and Learn Project Trip
20 October	Year 7 Settling In Meetings
22 October	Sponsored Walk
22 October	END OF TERM ONE

23-27 October	Rugby Tour to Ireland
2 November	START OF TERM TWO
10 November	Theatre Trip – An Inspector Calls
11 November	Year 13 Parents' Consultation Evening
12 November	Year 13 Geography Trip to Sheffield
14 November	Rotary Swimathon
16 November	AS/A2 Philosophy Conference
20 November	GCSE PE Orienteering Assessment
20 November	Primary School Athletics Competition
24 November	Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening
9 December	Year 9 Options Evening
16 December	Curriculum Day
16 December	Senior Prizegiving
17 December	Carol Service
17 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 2015-16.

Yours sincerely



N M Law
Headteacher

