

22 July 2016

Dear parent/carer

As we reach the end of the academic year I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for entrusting the education of your child to our school. Birches Head is a rapidly improving school and in the words of Ofsted has been transformed and has seen dramatic improvements over the last year. We constantly strive to provide outstanding lessons, opportunities and experiences for your children. I trust that some of these improvements are already having an impact on your child and their learning.

Our priority remains to increase the achievement and progress of all students and this year we expect the GCSE results to increase significantly from last year's position. We will also continue to focus on the development of the wider personal development skills with industry/university visits and activities such as Duke of Edinburgh.

As you are aware a decision was taken in June which means Birches Head no longer needs a sponsor and therefore won't be entering into a multi-academy trust with St Joseph's College. The school is in the strong position now and able to decide when and with whom it wishes to join in a multi-academy trust. Any proposals will be shared when and as they become available.

Please remember:

- **Uniform** – all students must return in September wearing the new school uniform. Students must strictly adhere to wearing black shoes with a suitable sole – no trainers or plimsolls will be allowed. Nail polish is strictly forbidden and make up must be kept to a minimum; students will be made to remove excessive amounts before entering a classroom.
- **Attendance** – attending regularly to school is the first step to your child's success. Regular attendance means 95% and above. It is important that you keep any absences to an absolute minimum and only when there is no alternative.

Enclosed is a Registration Certificate which shows your child's attendance percentage to date. If this is below 95% it is important to ensure this improves during the next academic year. Should your child's attendance fall below 95% it will leave us no option but to initiate interventions and support. We want to work together to achieve the best possible outcomes for your child.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Hulme, Attendance Officer at the school.

First day of term

Wednesday 7 September - students **in the new year 7 only** should arrive at 8.25am.

Thursday 8 September - all students will return to school at 8.25am.

Enclosed is our Summer 2016 Newsletter which highlights some of the activities and opportunities your child has been involved in.

On behalf of myself, the staff and Governors I thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing your child in September.

Yours sincerely



Ms K Dixon
Headteacher

Enclosed:

- Summer 2016 Newsletter
- Registration Certificate