

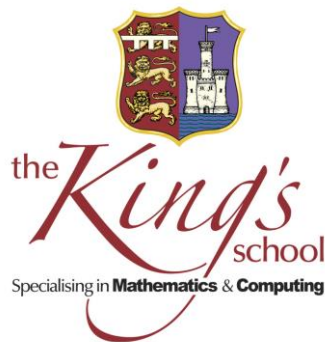
# The King's School

Mill Hill Lane  
Pontefract  
WF8 4JF

**Barbara Tibbetts**  
Headteacher

Tel: 01977 601701  
Fax: 01977 601710

[www.kings.wakefield.sch.uk](http://www.kings.wakefield.sch.uk)  
[admin@kings.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kings.wakefield.sch.uk)



12 July 2017

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

In our final communication for this academic year, I would like to thank everyone for their continuing support in maintaining and developing that essential partnership which enables us to achieve our mission of 'Success for All'. It has been a fast-moving, successful year, packed with a wealth of academic and extra-curricular activities.

This month we've had particular reason to celebrate - first of all a very positive report from Ofsted following the Inspection on 21/21 June - This is a GOOD School! Secondly, a wonderful celebration with our Class of 2017 at their Prom on Monday evening. They all looked stunning and were a credit to the school. We look forward to sharing their success on Results Day - Thursday 24 August. End of year assemblies next week for Years 7 - 10 will celebrate effort and achievement for the rest of the school.

At the end of this year farewells go to the following staff - Miss S Godou, Mr R Hossack, Mrs R Holland, Mr M Ratcliffe, Mrs S Hartley, Mrs J Jackson, Mrs L Redfern and Mr J Trevorror from the Support Staff team and Mr C Daley, Mrs A Dawson, Mr D Edwards, Miss H Marker, Miss B Melia and Mrs L Wilson from the Teaching staff. We wish them well in their new ventures and thank them all for their dedication and hard work.

As you are aware I too am leaving after 31 years at The King's School. It has been a joy and a privilege to work in this school and I take away with me many happy memories of working with the young people and families of Pontefract. We extend a warm welcome to Mrs Elaine Briggs who is the newly appointed Head of School.

***From Julie Craig - CEO/Executive Headteacher - Pontefract Academies Trust (PAT)***

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank Barbara Tibbetts for her long service and unwavering commitment to The King's School and wish her an equally long and happy retirement. I am particularly pleased that the Inspectors arrived before Barbara's departure and recognised her clear leadership in achieving significant improvements over the last two years to deliver such a positive Ofsted report.*

*We warmly welcome to the Pontefract Academies Trust family, Mrs Elaine Briggs, our newly appointed Head at The King's School. Elaine has held a wealth of successful leadership roles in a variety of settings across Wakefield, Kirklees and Barnsley and we are confident that she will draw upon this significant experience to take The King's to even greater heights. We are particularly pleased that she has been able to join us for the last couple of weeks of term, enabling her to work closely with the school and the Trust in effecting a speedy and smooth transition.*

*You will no doubt have noted from the Ofsted report, and Mrs Tibbetts' previous letter, that the school has new Governance arrangements in place. I add my thanks to the previous longstanding team for their positive and pivotal role in the school's development journey and look forward to working with another great team of highly skilled and committed members of our local community. Please see the school's website for further information.*

**Central to the values of The King's School is a commitment to the safeguarding and protection of young people.**



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE LAST WEEK OF TERM

The final week of this term will follow a normal timetable most days except for Thursday which will be Sports Day. Form time and Period 1 will be taken up with Celebration Assemblies for each Year Group to which parents have been invited (8.50am start). Those students not involved in assemblies will be taking part in Tutor or Year Group based activities.

Students should wear normal school uniform on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. School Sports Kit can be worn on Thursday. Friday will be a non-uniform day (reasonable non uniform clothing) for a small donation of £1. Proceeds will go to the World Challenge Student Fundraiser and a charity of the school's choice.

On the last day of term, Friday 21 July, school will close for students at 1.15 pm, students are expected to attend school for the full morning session. The bus to Ackworth will run at 1.25pm. Unfortunately we are unable to change the other service bus times. Regular Arriva buses operate along Wakefield Road. If your child is unable to return home at that time and needs to stay in school please contact Student Services so that we can arrange supervision.

## NEW ACADEMIC YEAR - IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

### Advanced Notice of Exams 2017-18

Years 10 and 11 parents and students need to be aware that national exams take place during May and June. **These cannot be re-arranged and must be taken on nationally agreed dates.** The calendar will be published on the school website as soon as it is released.

### Year 9, 10 and 11 GCSE/BTec Exams/Assessments

For most subjects there will no longer be Controlled Assessments and outcome will depend on final examinations. As a result there will be a variety of trial examinations and preparation assessments for Years 9, 10 and 11. Details of these will be communicated early in the Autumn Term.

All lessons cover the learning of key skills and areas of knowledge that contribute significantly to the final grades achieved in examinations. Missing time for any reason, but particularly for avoidable reasons such as holidays, is likely to be detrimental to your child's achievement and will not be authorised by the school.

There are also important periods of revision and internal school examinations when attendance is very important which will be published in a calendar to parents at the beginning of next academic year.

National changes to examination requirements mean that it is important that students in Years 7-11 are given experience and practice in revising and taking written examinations.

**GCSE Results Day - Thursday 24 August** - Results can be collected from the Learning Resource Centre by Year 11 from 9.00am and Year 10 from 10.30am.

**Progress Review Day - Thursday 23 November (11.00am - 7.00pm)**

### INSET Days 2017/18

Monday 4 September 2017  
Friday 20 October 2017 (PAT)  
Friday 24 November 2017  
Tuesday 2 January 2018 (PAT)  
Friday 29 June 2018

### Holidays 2017/18 (inclusive)

Half Term - Mon 23 October 2017 - Fri 27 October 2017  
Christmas - Mon 18 December 2017 - Tue 2 January 2018  
Half Term - Mon 12 February 2018 - Fri 16 February 2018  
Easter - Fri 30 March 2018 - Fri 13 April 2018  
May Day - Mon 7 May 2018  
Half Term - Mon 28 May 2018 - Fri 1 June 2018  
Summer break - Thurs 26 July 2018 - Fri 1 Sept 2018

## ATTENDANCE/PUNCTUALITY

Our attendance figures have continued to be high and above national average this year with whole school attendance currently at 95%. There is a clear link between high levels of achievement and good attendance and we are all keen that your child's progress and future are not impeded by avoidable absences. Attendance regulations make it clear that Headteachers may no longer grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. We would like to remind you that applications for holiday leave in term time will not be granted and will be reported as unauthorised absence.

Punctuality is equally important. The school day begins at 8.50am. Students arriving after 8.55am are marked as late. This is monitored closely. Please be aware that **persistent or continued lateness will be recorded as unauthorised absences and may result in a Penalty Notice being issued**, in line with the Government and PAT Policy. Students who are late will be placed in a supervised lunch.

In addition, please be aware that the national threshold for Persistent Absence is 90%. This means that if your child's attendance falls below 90% a Penalty Notice may be issued. Research shows that if attendance falls below 90% then your child's achievement is likely to reduce by at least 1 GCSE grade.

## UNIFORM AND OTHER MATTERS

Over the summer parents often purchase new items of clothing and students ask for different hairstyles and colours. Please check the Uniform List carefully, on the School website, so that you do not spend your hard earned money on things that would not be allowed. **Trousers and skirts should not be material which is of the stretchy/'lycra' type, skirts should be no more than 3cm above the knee and trousers should not be skinny leg style or denim material.** Any student turning up to school in appropriate dress will have to wear school's own alternative items. Failure to comply will result in Isolation, in line with the School's Behaviour Policy.

## CATERING SERVICE

Pontefract Academies Trust has recently undertaken a procurement exercise for the provision of catering services in all its schools from 1 August 2017. We are pleased to announce that a company known as Chartwells has been selected as the preferred supplier.

Please see our website for further details regarding our new menu what will be launched at the start of the new academic year in September.

Please see the following useful article - How to 'Become an expert in your child's online world in 6 weeks'  
<https://nspcc.o2.co.uk/>

Once again The School is over-subscribed for the next academic year. On Tuesday 5 September we will welcome our new Year 7s, the Class of 2022!, as they start their King's journey.

Please note: **Tuesday 5 September: New Year 7 only to arrive in school at 8.40am for an 8.50am start in the Hall, with selected Buddies from Year 9. Years 8 - 11 to arrive in school from 11.15am in time for Period 3 (11.25am) with Form Tutors. Normal lessons in the afternoon.**

Finally, all that remains is for us to wish you all a safe and relaxing summer. Thank-you for your support throughout the year, we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you to ensure the best education for your child.

Yours sincerely



Barbara Tibbetts  
Headteacher