

5<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Dear Parents

I hope you all had an enjoyable half term break and that it isn't too distant a memory now! Hasn't it been good to experience some spring sunshine this week?

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February saw the Upper 4 pupils 'Extravaganza'. This was an opportunity for the girls, under their own initiative, to develop ideas for an evening charity function and the winning team adopted the theme of 'Willy Wonka'. All the Upper 4 girls were encouraged to join together to support the winning group by joining one of five subcommittees. The successful event, which showcased the talents of the year group, was enjoyed by all and raised £900 for the two school charities. Fun was clearly had by all!

I shadowed Lower 4 lessons for the day on Wednesday – I enjoyed sharing the girls' experiences and am more appreciative of their demanding days.

I am delighted to inform you that our Prize Giving Ceremony on Exhibition Day will be held in the marquee at Harwood House, as also will the FOG Summer Ball. I am looking forward to, what I am told, is the main highlight in the school calendar when we celebrate the success and achievements of our pupils in such a beautiful setting.

Arrangements are well underway for the programme of the Green Gateways Business Club breakfast meetings to be held throughout the year, with the first meeting on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March. These breakfast meetings build on our impressive credential of being the first High School in Leeds to be awarded the Green Flag status and the Greenstitch Team winning £10,000 in the npower 'National Climate Cops' competition last year.

The GCSE Information Evening is taking place next Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm. Please do bring the evening to the attention of friends and family who may be interested in hearing what Gateways has to offer for GCSE studies. It was good to speak with parents at Upper 4 parents' evening this week; there was a positive reception to the proposed improvements to the GCSE provision.

We have had a further meeting with our uniform suppliers, Rawcliffes, to finalise some changes to the school uniform. Upper 3 pupils will be the first in High School to wear the new style skirt. It is a very practical and smart skirt that will ensure pupils and staff are comfortable whilst going about their daily business. We are also in the process of selecting a new summer blouse. We asked for a sample of a pinafore for our youngest girls in the 'Gateways check' – it looks so good! We continue to search for an alternative coat to our current, rather costly, duffle coat.

I have continued my programme of building links with other local independent schools with a visit to Richmond House School on Monday. I was made very welcome and we are now awaiting a return visit.

Mr Goodwin, Network Manager, has moved on to work in his family business. We wish him every success and happiness and thank him for all he has done in his 10 years at Gateways. We welcome Mr Jonathan Finan as IT Systems Manager on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

On a final note, I would be grateful for your help with a couple of operational matters. I have noticed recently that a few pupils are arriving late for the start of the day and would be grateful if you could ensure your children arrive for a punctual start at 8.45am. Also, on my days at 'the bear' it is evident that the school buses have great difficulty negotiating the bend adjacent to the bear when cars are parked in that bay. Please would you not park on the bend by the bear as it does cause huge delays for those parents trying to enter the car park. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Y Wilkinson  
Headmistress