



# Rushcliffe School

Rushcliffe School

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Dear Parents/Carers

We have had another great year of success across the board. Children have yet again achieved excellence in academic, sporting and artistic fields. They have followed the Rushcliffe Way showing respect and empathy for others and day after day doing the right thing both within and outside of the classroom. We highlight some of these great achievements in **The Rushcliffe Post** and on the website. Please do take the time to read about our fantastic pupils, they are truly inspirational. We have also introduced a **Parents Notes** that gives you a clear picture of what is happening in school every week and also asks for your opinions on issues affecting our school community. It has really aided communication and I hope as many of you as possible will engage in the brief questionnaires we ask you. Communication between school and home is vitally important so please make sure we have up **to date contact details** including email addresses and mobile phone numbers. We will be looking to send the vast majority of letters home by email from September as this will be more efficient and bring substantial savings on postage. It is also important that we know of any **health issues** your child has so we can support effectively. Please fill out and return the annual consent form that will be coming your way and make sure we have all relevant information.

The school continues to expand and we will start our performing arts and languages block in July. We expect that this time next year we will be in the new building and able to complete our withdrawal of all classroom space from the former leisure centre building. We were unsuccessful in our bid to the central government for funding to develop our PE facilities including a new sports hall to replace the one in the leisure centre building. Until a further bid is successful or other funding streams become available we will still need to use the sports hall and the changing rooms in that building.

Inadequate funding remains a very real issue for Rushcliffe School. The reality is we are some £900 000 worse off than we would have been had funding and costs remained as they were 3 years ago. This issue will not go away. We await a full government agenda but if the fair funding formula were to go ahead as published the financial viability of many schools including Rushcliffe would be called into question. **Your support in challenging the chronic underfunding of education is very much appreciated** and vital to the future of our country and your child.

We will break up for the summer at **12.00 noon on Tuesday 25th July**; buses will leave the school at 12.10pm. We have 2 INSET days on our return so we will open to all pupils on **Thursday 7th September**.

We will **welcome new members of staff** in September and will say goodbye to some well-respected and much loved teachers at the end of this term.

Both Mr Jones our Head of Music and Mr Watson in the history department will be retiring after many years of service to the school. They have worked tirelessly for the good of the children at Rushcliffe School and can be justly proud of the impact they have made to the whole school community and many individual pupils. Mr Nicholls, Head of Business and Enterprise is leaving to take up a post at Emmanuel School. Mr Nicholls has been a member of staff here for some 15 years and I know he will be very much missed. Mr Ward has been appointed as Deputy Head Teacher at Arnold Hill Academy following his recent secondment to Farnborough Academy. Mr Gregory is leaving us to become Head of Maths at Christ The King School in Arnold. Ms Smith and Mr Burge will leave the English department as will Ms Byatt in languages. Lucy, our school



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counsellor will also leave us at the end of the academic year. We wish all those leaving Rushcliffe School well and thank them for their commitment and hard work.

Dr Jackson will be staying at Arnold Hill following his secondment and Ms Desai will be going to Farnborough Academy on a one year secondment as an Associate Deputy Head. Ms Corbett will be returning from her maternity leave and Mr Dakers will remain as part of the senior leadership team as Assistant Head Teacher (Community).

Joining Rushcliffe in September will be: Ms Skeavington, Ms Poynton Smith and Mr King in English, Mr Morin and Ms Ward in maths, Mr Cottee in computing, Mr Dove in music, Mr Crawley and Ms Mudge in PE and Ms Bates in Learning Support.

**School uniform this year has been excellent.** The vast majority of our pupils wear their uniform smartly and with pride. The uniform policy is very simple and available on the website. Please do check this before shopping for new school uniform. Just because a shop has certain clothing in a school wear range doesn't mean that it complies with Rushcliffe School's uniform requirements. The school skirt can only be purchased from one supplier; again details are on the website.

As part of a fundraising initiative and to support families with uniform costs our sixth form students are setting up a shop to resell good quality uniform that pupils have out grown. If you have any good quality uniforms or PE kit that you would like to donate then we will be collecting this at the end of the academic year. More news on this will come to you directly from the sixth form team.

It has been our experience that some pupils may get piercings or dye their hair over the summer. If this is the case for your child please make sure that when they return to school in September their hair is a natural colour and piercings are in line with uniform policy.

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July we will be holding our **annual festival in aid of the school we support in Guatemala**. The festival will take place in the afternoon for pupils then will **open up to the wider community from 3.30pm until 6.00pm**. I hope as many of you as possible can come along. More information will be on the website closer to the day.

**Results day for A Levels is Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August and for GCSE it is Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August.** Pupils have worked hard and conducted themselves very well throughout the exam period. I know for pupils and parent/carers alike exam time and awaiting results can be stressful. We wish all our pupils well and will be here to offer congratulations, support and guidance over results day and beyond.

As always we are very grateful for the continued support parents and carers give the school. May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very relaxing and happy summer break.

Yours sincerely

STEVE LEWIS  
Head Teacher

