



SCISSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs N. Greenough

12th December 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of a very busy and eventful term, I wanted to take the opportunity to keep you updated on events in school.

Mast:

As I am sure you are all aware, the school converted to academy status as part of the Mast Academy Trust as planned on 1st December. We are already working collaboratively with our partner schools to develop the quality of service we provide to the families and children whom we serve and to ensure we get the very best financial efficiencies. Martyn Jones, who worked as Senior Director in Morrisons for many years prior to his retirement last year, has been appointed as Chair of the Multi-Academy Trust and Debra Knowles, Head teacher at Shelley First School, will take up post as Chief Education Officer (CEO) during our set phase. We are really excited to be working together in a formal way as we all share the same vision and values. Full details will be available on the Mast website which should go live in the New Year.

Trips and upcoming events:

On Friday 9th December, we had Grandparents of our Year 8 students, and members of the Denby Dale Hub community group, in to be entertained by our Musical Drama Group; wonderful singers and Year 8 ballroom dancers. Our Musical Drama Group will be putting on a show for parents and carers next Tuesday (13th December), hosted by our Cooking Group, who have prepared refreshments and our Craft Group, who have made table decorations.

We have another stand-down day coming up this week, when pupils will be covering PHSE topics and engaging in an Enterprise day. Our Year 6 pupils will be experiencing a Titanic day with the English department.

Other key events coming up soon:

Thursday 15th December 7pm: Christmas Concert at Scissett Church (This has changed from our pre-published calendar).

Friday 16th December: Christmas Jumper Day (school uniform but Christmas jumpers may be worn instead of school jumpers); last day of term; Academic Progress reports home.

Other dates for your diary:

Wednesday 1st February and Thursday 2nd February – Year 6 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 28th February and Wednesday 1st March – Year 8 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 4th April and Wednesday 5th April – Year 7 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 22nd March – Year 8 trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park



Other trips planned for later in the academic year include the Year 8 residential trip to France and Kingswood; a Year 7 day trip to Kingswood to do outdoor adventure activities and a trip to Quarry Bank as part of the History curriculum; a Year 6 trip to Harry Potter Studios – all of which are full Year group opportunities.

Pupil Progress Monitoring Rewards (Film)

Twice each term, every child in the school is awarded a score for their attitude to learning and effort in homework by each of their teachers, which are based upon the descriptions in your child's Assertive Mentoring folder. At the end of every term, the pupils whom staff deem to be working within the school's expectations will be rewarded by being allowed to watch a film in the hall as well as being offered a drink and snack.

The vast majority of our pupils work well in lessons and conduct themselves respectfully; however, we hope that pupils will strive to achieve their very best and become proactive in their learning. As you know, our monitoring system has been revised during the year and now, pupils considered to be 'passive' learners, will be awarded 2 whereas, in the past, they might have been awarded 1. We anticipate that between 60 and 65% of our pupils will qualify for the film this term and hope that the number will increase to at least 80% next term as pupils develop their resilience and determination.

Hopefully, this will be clear; however, should you require further explanation then please contact your child's Form Tutor of any member of the Pastoral Team on the usual telephone number.

Reports:

As you will be aware, we are trialling a new system of reports this academic year. Rather than one long written report each year, we are sending regular shorter reports home so that parents are more aware of how their child is doing each term. So far all parents will have received the first Assertive Mentoring report and on Friday of this week, parents will receive, the first academic report. This will include a commentary from your child's Class Tutor which will summarise areas of success and areas which may constitute targets for improvements. You will also receive a full booklet which shows you which topics your child has studied in every subject, where they have met expected standards and which areas remain as targets. If you have any comments about the reports, or would like any further information, then please contact Mr McQueeney at school who will conduct a full review with parents, pupils and staff at the end of the academic year following the trial.

Finally...

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the staff at Scissett Middle School.

Yours sincerely



Mrs N Greenough
Headteacher

