



# SCISSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs N. Greenough

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As we now begin to approach the end of the academic year, we get ready to wish our Year 8's a fond farewell as they move on to Shelley College. They have been a fantastic year group and I am sure they will go on to excel in the next stages of their education. They have been Librarians; Reading Mentors; Numeracy Mentors; Sports Leaders and Prefects. We still have just over 3 weeks left and learning will continue at full pace during that time, and then on the last day we will have a number of celebrations including a leavers' assembly; BBQ and Merits Awards. Many Year 8s have bought a leavers' Hoody and we would invite them to wear them on the last two days they are with us but not before so as not to cause any distractions from learning.

### **Uniform Exchange: Please help!**

Last year, some parents may remember that we collected unwanted school shoes at the end of term for a charity who recycles them for children in deprived countries. This was a real success. This year we would like to do a 'Uniform Exchange' whereby Year 8 pupils (or younger pupils who may have outgrown uniform), donate it to school and we will sell it on for a couple of pounds to try and reduce the cost of a whole new uniform to other families. The money that we raise, will be used to buy footwear and school equipment for pupils who may need it. So we are asking for jumpers, ties and especially PE kit, that is no longer needed to be brought into school on the last day of term for Year 8 (or earlier) and in exchange pupils can wear their leavers' Hoody, if they have one, or an alternative sweatshirt. We understand that some pupils may have younger siblings and want to keep uniform or pass it on, but if you are able to support, we would be very grateful. We will send out a reminder closer to the time.

### **New School Year:**

We will start our new school year from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July when current Year 6 will begin their Year 7 timetable and current Year 7 will begin their Year 8 timetable. We look forward to welcoming our new Year 6 for the last week of term. Normal lessons will continue until the last two days of term which are our final 'drop down days'. The theme is community and enterprise. Year 8 (current year 7) will run a Summer Fair on the Friday afternoon – to which their parents are invited. Their challenge will be to raise as much profit as possible from £30 for a charity assigned to them. Pupils from the younger year groups will be able to visit the stalls with their class teachers. Year 7 (current Year 6) will have a range of activities to attend which will help them explore different aspects of community. Finally, Year 6 will spend time with their new classes and work to understand how a Growth Mindset can make the unachievable possible.



### **Staffing Update:**

We sadly said goodbye to Miss Reininger at half term who has moved into a new profession. However, we are very lucky to have had Ms Threlfall who has accepted a permanent contract so there will be no changes to staffing. We have a new Technician in Technology and Mrs Wilcox has already proven to be a fantastic addition to the team. We have advertised for vacancies for Apprenticeships for Educational Teaching Assistants, including one for Sport/PE and we have advertised for a new Office Apprentice. Details of these vacancies can be found on the school website and by contacting Mrs S Booth at school on [sbooth@scissett.com](mailto:sbooth@scissett.com)

### **Parent feedback:**

Thank you to all parents who provide feedback through the annual survey (at Parents' Evening) and by direct contact to school. We use the feedback you offer to support school improvements. In the past, we have made changes to the school uniform and the way we report on progress and communicate with our families including setting up and running Twitter and Facebook. The feedback offered this year has been around improving Parents' Evenings. Consequently, we will calendar reports to go out when the booking system opens, so parents can ensure they meet with teachers where they feel it would be most beneficial. We also intend to limit appointments to 5 teaching staff so that all parents can have access to a spread of appointments. Some parents have contacted us about the rewards and sanctions system. We are working hard to create a way for parents to be able to access up-to-date information about their child's rewards points and any negative points they may have picked up. It is anticipated that we may be able to trial this system by the end of the Autumn term. We also intend to put behaviour and reward points on reports to ensure information is transparent and available to parents. We hope this will help parents to support at home.

### **Fencing:**

As I am sure many of you will be aware, we have an open site at Scissett Middle School which can cause some problems with regards to members of the public being able to access the school site. Historically, we have had issues with people walking dogs across school grounds whilst school is in session; dog 'mess' being left on playgrounds and fields; cars been driven onto site to 'turn around' during school hours and vandalism to school site at weekends and in the evenings. We have also had reports of some anti-social behaviour around the MUGA at weekends. I am pleased to say that we have been very fortunate to receive a grant from the Department for Education to be able to secure the site. We will have perimeter fencing to the school building and immediate PE spaces down to the MUGA. We will also have some low fencing in the lower part of the field but intend to still make this available for public use outside of school hours but with improved signage around not allowing dogs on site for hygiene reasons. The MUGA will also still be available for public use outside of school hours – however, the bid includes high resolution CCTV in this area which will hopefully deter anti-social behaviour and mean that it can be used by families safely. We will also have new gated entrances to allow us to control visitors to site and ensure vehicles are not coming onto site as pupils are on break, lunch or moving around for PE. This work is due to happen over the Summer holidays. There will be no changes to dropping off and picking up arrangements which will continue in the bus bay.

### **Curriculum Change:**

We have adjusted our curriculum for next year to ensure all pupils from Year 6 until Year 8 will do Drama. We have taught Drama for the first time this year to Year 6 and are cascading this out to older years as part of a rotation with Technology. We have also increased the provision for Personal, Social, Religious and



Relationship Education in Year 7. I am sure parents will agree that both these subjects are crucial in developing confidence, tolerance and understanding in young people.

### **And finally...**

I hope families have the opportunity to follow us on either Twitter or Facebook, and if you do, you will be aware of the amazing achievements of many of our pupils. We have pupils competing in a range of events at local; regional and even National levels. To be able to achieve at these levels takes an enormous amount of commitment – quite often from everyone in the family – and we are proud of not only their successes but the mindset for success they demonstrate day in day out. We have also had sporting teams competing on inter-school and regional level and have had particular success, once again, in Junior Athletics. Pupils have also competed in Literary quizzes; Science and Technology events and have raised money for a number of charities. We have had a huge number of visitors in school – including many parents who gave generously of their time to share their career experiences with pupils. Whenever we take pupils out, or have visitors in school, they always comment on the exemplary behaviour and attitude of our pupils and it is this attitude to learning that allows us to provide so many opportunities for pupils to ensure they develop academically but also socially, emotionally and morally.

### **Upcoming dates:**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July** – Rewards Day (Trips and in school activities)

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July** – Sports Day (Pupils to wear PE kit to school. Normal lessons in the morning for those not participating in field events)

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July** – Year 8 leavers' day and school BBQ (served at lunchtime)

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July** – New timetable starts

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July** - Year 8 Celebration evening

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July** – New Year 5 start school

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July/Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July** – Drop down days (Community)

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2pm** – Summer Fair

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July/Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July** – Training days (school is closed for the summer)

**Autumn Term starts** – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Thank you for all you support this academic year. May I wish you a lovely Summer.

Kind Regards



Mrs N Greenough  
Headteacher

