



home-link

EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA

SEPTEMBER 2009

Headteacher's Hello

Welcome to the start of the academic year.

We have wonderful news regarding the examination results. The school achieved its best set of examination results at all levels: GCSE, AS and A Level. This is no mean feat considering the year-on-year improvement for the last eleven years.

The purpose of this 'Home-link Extra' is to provide you with up-to-date information about the start of the academic year.

A reminder to all parents that information regarding the school calendar, term dates, Week A and B timetable arrangements and the school lunch menus can be viewed on the school's website at www.stclementdanes.org.uk.

J Valentine

Headteacher

Examination Results

Key Stage 3 SATs

This year there have been no national Key Stage 3 assessments. The Teacher Assessment levels were reported on the end of year reports for Year 9 students.

GCSE results

Last year's Year 11 students achieved a stunning set of results.

The overall figures of 92% 5 A* - C grades and 82% 5 A* - C grades with English and Maths are an improvement on last year and represent many outstanding personal triumphs. The success is attributed to hard working students, talented teachers, a culture of high expectations and a successful, well-targeted mentoring programme.

AS and A Level results

Again, our results are the best ever both in terms of attainment and achievement.

The percentage of A and B grades at A Level rose to 69%. All grades were pass grades with many outstanding performances that resulted in students obtaining their places of choice at university.

Further details of individual achievements will be presented at Speech Day.

The ongoing success in the Sixth Form can be attributed to the creative and talented teachers, incredibly hard working students and a proactive pastoral monitoring system.

The support our students receive throughout their studies and in preparation is second to none.

I thank, on your behalf, the staff of the school for their dedication that goes beyond all expectations and I pass on to the students a sincere 'well done' for their magnificent achievements.

J Valentine

Headteacher

School Environment

During the summer holiday we have packed more redecoration, refurbishment and rebuilding work into the six weeks than we have ever done before. I am delighted that the facilities have been, yet again, enhanced to provide the very best learning environment for our students.

The dining room has been extended and refurbished so that both packed lunches and hot lunches can be accommodated within one superb space.

We now have a new purpose-built servery to reduce queuing at break and lunch times. On offer will be an improved choice in keeping with the new nutritional standards for secondary schools and supporting our recently achieved 'Healthy School' status.

The canteen will also be open from 8.00am each school day offering a breakfast service before the school day starts. Our new break and lunch menus are available on the school website under the 'school meals' option.

In planning the project we have kept the School Council fully informed as the design developed and have taken on board many of their ideas.

Four Humanities classrooms have been completely refurbished alongside new energy efficient and fire prevention works to the first floor corridor. In addition there has been ongoing redecoration of corridors and the Anchor Building.

The school is clean, bright and a fabulous resource for all who work and study here.

J Valentine

D Heward

Headteacher

Premises Manager

Car Park

A reminder to all parents that the Governors are consulting upon the proposal to close the school gates in the morning to parental traffic.

The proposal is that the morning closures will come into effect after half term.

The school has now a barrier system on the school gates. This will be in operation during the end of the school day.

A reminder to all parents - if you require access to the school car park during morning or afternoon pick up and drop off times due to special medical needs, or the conveyance of bulky equipment or instruments, then please write to me and allowances will be made.

If you have any views on the matter could you address your concerns to me at the school. Please label the outside of the envelope "Car Park".

J Valentine

Headteacher

Calendar Changes

There is an addition to the yearly calendar dates sent out at the end of last term; Wednesday 17th March - Year 9 GCSE Options Evening.

Forthcoming Events

Open Evening

Open Evening this year will take place on Monday 5 October. We are staggering the open times between 3.30pm - 8.30pm to ease the congestion.

The student day on Monday 5 October is as follows:

Periods 1 and 2	Normal times
Break	10.55 / 11.25
Period 3	11.25 / 12.00
Short Lunch	12.00 / 12.20
Registration	12.25
End of School	12.30

Year 7 Cheese & Wine Evening

Parents and carers of all Year 7 pupils are invited to an informal evening, on Friday 25 September starting at 7.00pm. This is an ideal opportunity to meet other new parents, as well as members of the Senior Leadership Team, Form Tutors and members of the Parents Association Committee.

Further details will follow soon.

Forthcoming Events cont.

Speech Day and Presentation of Prizes

Speech Day is on **Friday 18 September** and a programme for the day is below. Junior Speech Day (Years 8, 9 and 10) is in the morning and Seniors (Years 11, 12, 13 and leavers) in the afternoon. Year 7 students will study at home on Speech Day and they will be provided with work from lessons they would normally have that day.

Speech Day Arrangements

Information for Parents

Date	Friday 18 September
Student Attendance	Year 7 do not attend school as the Barbirolli Hall will not accommodate the numbers
Junior Prize Giving	Years 8 / 9 / 10
Senior Prize Giving	Years 11 / 12 / 13
Junior Prize Giving	Student registration - 10.00
Start of Prize Giving	10.30
End of Prize Giving	11.30
Buses depart	11.45
Senior Prize Giving	Student registration - 14.00
Start of Prize Giving	14.30
End of Prize Giving	15.45
Buses depart	16.00
School Orchestra	Arrive at school - 08.30
Depart	15.45

Additional Information

- All students in Years 8 to 11 should wear full school uniform
- Sixth Form students should wear appropriate dress for a formal event
- Lunch will be provided for the orchestra members
- A revised bus time table will be placed on the windows of the new student entrance and students should also check with bus drivers for a schedule
- All prize winners will be contacted prior to the event
- School work will be set for Year 7 students

Homelink

The school's monthly newsletter 'Home-Link' is published on the last Friday of every month (except April and July). It contains a great deal of vital information and news about the school.

The newsletter will be emailed via Parentmail and published on the school website www.stclementdanes.org.uk. It can be sent home in paper copy to those who do not subscribe to Parentmail.

Look out for it as it is a vital part of our home/school communication.

Healthy School Status

The school heard at the end of last term that it was successful in its' application for Healthy School Status. We are very pleased with this achievement which is a reflection of the success of four key areas in school:

- Physical activity
- Healthy eating
- Emotional well-being
- Personal, social and health education

Uniform

Please can you ensure that your son or daughter is wearing the correct uniform. There is a copy of the Uniform Guidelines on the back of this Home-Link. In particular girls' skirts should be an acceptable length and no make up and jewellery should be worn, including nail varnish.

Staffing News

Congratulations to Mrs Wheatley who gave birth to a baby boy in July. Congratulations also to Mr Turner (Business Studies) and Miss Fishley (Science) who were married (to each other!) this summer.

This year we welcome 16 new staff.

Mr Gwynn joins the school's Senior Leadership Team as Business Manager.

The following teachers have joined each of the Faculties below:-

English	Mrs Powell Mr Tattle	KS4 Co-ordinator
Maths	Mr Martin	KS3 Co-ordinator
Science	Mrs Walker Miss Scott	
MFL	Mrs Neill Miss Holland	
Technology	Mr Moody	
Art	Miss Creighton	
Drama	Mr Asher Miss Morby	
PE	Miss Nicholls	
BITEV	Miss Weetman	
Psychology	Miss Glanville	
Geography	Mr Morris	

Internal Staffing Changes

Assistant Headteacher	Dr Johnson
Head of Science	Miss Buss
Head of MFL	Mr Jones
Head of Drama	Mr Williams
Assistant Director of Sixth Form	Mr Bilton
Assistant KS3 and KS4 Pastoral Leader	Mrs Giles
Excellent Teacher for MFL	Miss Jacobs
Excellent Teacher for Science	Mrs Quinton
Co-ordinator of KS3 ICT	Mr Turner
Teaching & Learning initiatives in Maths	Mr Perkins

HPV Vaccination Programme

Girls in year's 8, 10,11,12, and 13 will be having a cervical cancer vaccination on Monday 28th September.

ParentMail

Please use the website parentmail.co.uk if you need to change any email addresses or mobile phone numbers. For all other enquiries or to join ParentMail, please email Mrs Paula Moore at the school on moorep378@stclementdanes.herts.sch.uk

Autumn Ball Reminder

*Autumn Ball Saturday 17th October
£45 per person*

Tickets are still available for this highly popular annual event. Enjoy a champagne reception followed by a superb dinner, dancing to a live band and an auction of highly sought after lots.

Subject to availability, we will accept bookings of any number of people, to a maximum of twelve per table.

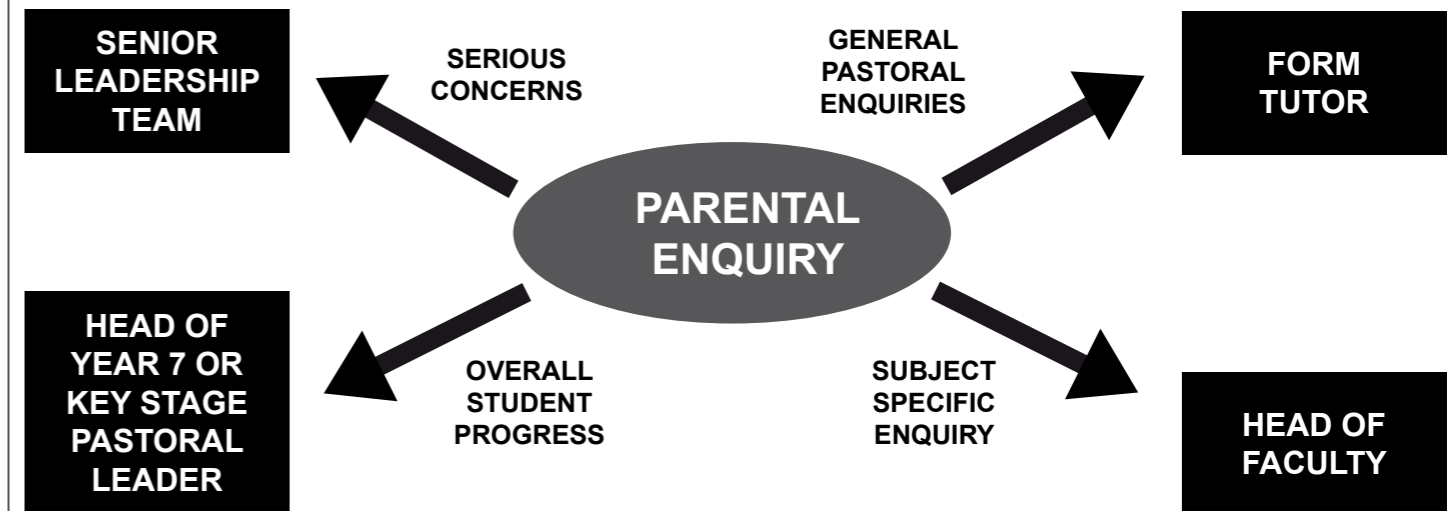
Smaller parties are also most welcome.

For further information or to book please contact Scott Myers at scott_picphotos@yahoo.com

Communication

The school sends information to parents on a frequent basis via Parentmail, which uses e-mail to broadcast messages to parents. Using e-mail as the preferred method of communication has vastly improved the speed and reliability of communication from school to parents.

With regard to parents communicating with the school, the preferred methods of communication are by phone, letter or in a meeting. It is often difficult to know whom to approach when you have an enquiry and so we would request that you follow the guidance below.



Most commonly, communication is via telephone and often parents will speak to a member of the administrative staff in reception and then be asked to leave a voicemail message with the member of staff they wish to contact. These are the names of staff whom you may need to contact:

FORM/TUTOR

7A.....Miss Scott	8A..... Ms Gandee
7B.....Ms Kleiner	8B..... Mrs Bhimani
7C.....Ms Fontanella	8C..... Miss Corbitt
7D.....Miss Bhalla	8D..... Miss Ryan
7E.....Mr Symonds	8E..... Miss Buss
7L.....Miss Burgin	8L..... Mr Chapman
7S.....Mr Westhead	8S..... Mr Fawcett
7T.....Miss Holland	8T..... Mrs Collins
9A.....Mrs Neill	10A..... Ms Powell
9B.....Ms Purslow	10B..... Ms Kay
9C.....Mr Jones	10C..... Miss Mitchell
9D.....Mrs Butler	10D..... Mrs Reid
9E.....Ms Alger	10E..... Mr Charlwood
9L.....Mr Williams	10L..... Miss Jacobs
9S.....Mrs Beedell	10S..... Mr Birkett
9T.....Dr Matondo	10T..... Mr Mephram

11A.....Mr Turner
11B.....Miss Stevens
11C.....Mr Pink
11D.....Mrs Monk/Mrs Murray
11E.....Mr Evans
11L.....Mrs Savin
11S.....Mrs Brown
11T.....Mrs Pickard

12COL.....Dr Collier	13ADD..... Mr Addo
12TRN.....Mrs Turner	13BUR..... Mr Burrows
12HAN.....Ms Handley	13DUN..... Ms Dunn
12HAR.....Mr Harrison	13FIR..... Mrs Firth
12MAR.....Mr Marks	13FIT..... Miss Fitzpatrick
12PER.....Mr Perkins	13MAC..... Mrs McKenzie
12RIG.....C.Mrs	

A = Clare B = Burleigh C = Clement D = Dane
E = Exeter L = Lincoln S = Essex T = Temple

HEADS OF FACULTY

Mrs A Pickard	Head of English Faculty
Mrs S Savin	Head of Maths Faculty
Miss N Buss	Head of Science
Mrs D Firth	Head of Technology Faculty
Mr P Jones	Head of MFL
Mrs E Brown	Head of Humanities Faculty
Miss N Kay	Head of BITEV*
Mr C Marks	Head of Creative & Expressive Arts
Mr I Birkett	Head of PE Faculty

* Business, Economics, ICT and Vocational Education

PASTORAL TEAM

Mr J Hudson	Head of Year 7
Mr G Dubuis	KS3 Pastoral Leader
Mr G Brown	KS4 Pastoral Leader
Mrs R Giles	Assistant KS3 and KS4 Pastoral Leader
Mr M Garvey	Director of Sixth Form
Mrs L Hawkins	Assistant Director of Sixth Form
Mr A Bilton	Assistant Director of Sixth Form
Mrs C Rigby	Lead Excellent Teacher

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dr J Valentine	Headteacher
Mr G Butler	Deputy Headteacher
Mrs J Pullen	Deputy Headteacher
Mr S Gwynn	Business Manager
Mr P Hampson	Assistant Headteacher
Dr R Johnson	Assistant Headteacher
Mr S Thompson	Assistant Headteacher

The school's expectation is that the vast majority of communication will be directed towards Form Tutors, Heads of Faculty and the Head of Year 7.

Once an enquiry has been received, the member of staff will contact you within two working days to acknowledge that they have received the enquiry and should the matter require information to be gathered and collated, this will be completed and reported to you within (at the most) eight working days. Often enquiries are very simple to take care of and are completed well within the eight day period.

The school would request that parents only telephone the administrative staff in reception to leave a message for their child in an emergency. With over 1300 students it is not possible for administrative staff to deliver messages to individual students. Students are allowed to turn their mobile phones on at break and lunch time and so will be able to receive messages from their parents during the course of the school day.



UNIFORM POLICY

Uniform Policy

Students are required to wear full school uniform during normal school hours. They are also required to wear uniform when representing the school or attending formal functions arranged by the school.

Girls Years 7 to 11

Blazer	Navy blue blazer with school crest
Shirt	White, button-up polyester/cotton
Summer blouse	Short sleeved white blouse with school crest
Tie	*Green with house colour woven in (purchased from school)
Pullover	Bottle green V-neck with embroidered school badge
Skirt	Black Watch tartan kilt - standard length (max 5cm above the knee)
Trousers	Navy with Green Pinstripe (optional)
Socks	White socks
Tights	Black opaque
Shoes	Black, flat leather shoes (max 4cm heel)

Boys Years 7 to 11

Blazer	Navy blue blazer with school crest
Shirt	White, button-up polyester/cotton
Summer shirt	Short sleeved white polo shirt with green trim and school crest
Tie	*Green with house colour woven in (purchased from school)
Pullover	Bottle green V-neck with embroidered school badge
Trousers	Black, plain side pockets only
Socks	Black or grey socks (not white)
Shoes	Black, flat leather shoes

General Notes

- **All items must be purchased from our school suppliers, John Lewis, Watford, or be identical to those items in style and appearance**
- Trainers are only to be worn in PE and games **and at no other time**
- No jewellery may be worn, apart from **one** stud earring in each ear-lobe (not in top of ear)
- Long hair must be tied back
- Make-up and nail varnish are not to be worn
- Plain white T-shirts or vests can be worn under the uniform shirt in winter months but no printing or visible sign of T-shirt is allowed

Sixth Form

- There is a separate dress code for the Sixth Form

*The house colours are as follows:

Burleigh	B	Burgundy	Essex	S	Purple
Clare	A	Orange	Exeter	E	Light blue
Clement	C	Red	Lincoln	L	Green
Dane	D	Yellow	Temple	T	Dark blue