

**Dr Owen's End of Term Letter**

14 July 2017

Dear Parents

Thank you very much for your support throughout this academic year and for the many positive comments I have received about the school. It has been a delight to see so many pupils achieving at the highest levels in many different ways. Whilst the term has been dominated by public examinations for S5 and Sixth Form students, I am very pleased that a great deal of academic, sporting and musical activity has been squeezed in.

The AS and A2 results will be published on Thursday 17 August 2017 and the GCSE results on Thursday 24 August 2017. As always, members of staff will be on-hand to advise the students.

There are a number of changes to staffing for next September. Mr John Turner leaves Birkdale after 16 years of dedicated service. He has taught Economics and Business Studies with great success as well as helping with cricket, Duke of Edinburgh and Young Enterprise. We wish him a long and happy retirement. Mr Turner will be replaced by Mr Paul Jones. Mrs Julie Savage is retiring after teaching History and Government & Politics with commitment and success for 24 years. She has been a Form Tutor, run history film clubs, organised trips to historical and political sites and helped with Duke of Edinburgh, making a great contribution to Birkdale and to her pupils. We wish her a long and happy retirement. Mrs Savage will be replaced by Mr Stefan Bridle. Mr Keith Brook is retiring after 28 years at Birkdale. He has taught Science with great success, been Joint Head of Sixth Form and developed Outdoor Pursuits. He has coached Games, most recently growing hockey into a huge extra-curricular success for the school. He also created and led the Nepal Expeditions, combining adventure and service, raising hundreds of thousands of pounds to help people in Nepal and benefitting hundreds of Birkdale students. He will be missed for his energy, selflessness and Christian care for others although he will continue to be involved in the Nepal projects. We wish him an enjoyable retirement. Mr Brook will be replaced by Mr Peter Tryon. Mr Peter Snell has taught at Birkdale for 35 years, initially as Head of Games but more recently teaching Mathematics. He has helped with Outdoor Pursuits and Ski Trips and has patiently constructed the timetable each summer. He is an exceptional Mathematician, never without a crossword or a puzzle on the go; we wish him a long and happy retirement.

As in previous years, the summer holiday affords the opportunity to improve a number of parts of the school and in particular to complete the refurbishment of the main science laboratories.

I hope that the students pursuing the Expedition element of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Scheme have an enjoyable time and that the Rugby and Hockey tours are successful.

I would be grateful if you could check that clothing and equipment are marked with the name of your son or daughter before the start of the new academic year as this makes it much easier to return lost items. I would also be grateful if you would check that your son or daughter has not accidentally brought home equipment belonging to someone else; the school is happy to reunite items with their owners.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very restful and happy summer holiday.

Dr Paul Owen