

Dear Parents

I hope that you have had a restful and enjoyable summer holiday.

On behalf of the whole school community, I am pleased to welcome a large number of new students to the school this term and wish them well in their career at Birkdale. I also welcome a number of new members of the teaching staff with Mr Bridle joining the History Department, Mr Tryon joining the Chemistry Department, Mr Jones joining the Economics and Business Studies Department and Mr Malcolm providing maternity cover within Design & Technology for Mrs Hanson. We also have 3 language assistants: Miss Zidi (French) and Miss Civera Arraez (Spanish) join us this year whilst Mrs Perzl (German) returns for another year.

The summer holiday has been a busy time for many students; a number of Sixth Formers enjoyed the rugby tour to Canada or the hockey tour to the Netherlands whilst others participated in work experience in France and many students enjoyed the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions at the very end of last term.

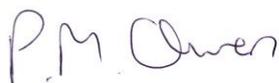
The holiday period has also allowed the refurbishment of the school's main science laboratories, to ensure the best possible standard of facilities for our students in this important subject. A number of other smaller refurbishments around the site have also been completed.

My congratulations to the students in public examination years who achieved some fine A level and GCSE results. The large majority of students achieved entry to their choice of university course and the university destinations of all the students will soon be published on the website.

Teaching and learning at Birkdale is already in full swing and our extensive programme of extra-curricular activities begins this week. Please do encourage your sons and daughters to participate in these activities as they teach such valuable skills and broaden the education that Birkdale offers: the termly calendar gives a full list of the weekly activities which complement the many other events.

I look forward to meeting you at one of the many school events this term.

Yours faithfully



Dr Owen