

July 2018

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 U6 students, I am very pleased that a great deal of academic, sporting and musical activity has been squeezed in.

The A level results will be published on Thursday 16 August 2018 and the GCSE results on Thursday 23 August 2018. As always, members of staff will be on-hand to advise the students.

There are a number of changes to staffing for next September. Dr Spencer Pitfield leaves Birkdale after 11 years of dedicated service. He has headed up Instrumental Studies and led a number of musical ensembles; latterly he has helped with the publicity for the school and with charities. Dr Pitfield leaves to lead the Paces Trust in Sheffield, a charity providing education for children with cerebral palsy. Mrs Virginia Sherborne leaves Birkdale after 18 years to pursue her counselling work and to take on a PhD project. She has taught Latin, Greek and Classics with great success: many pupils have benefitted from her scholarship, her warmth and her commitment. Mr Bob Heaton retires after 18 years as Director of Sport, a man who has helped countless pupils to achieve their sporting potential with patience, encouragement and good sense. Mr Heaton will be succeeded as Director of Sport by Mr Stephen Depledge. Finally, Mr Andrew Sanderson retires after 27 years at Birkdale. He was Director of Music for much of that time, directing musicals, developing ensembles and leading academic work. Latterly, he has served as Assistant Director of Studies; utterly meticulous in approach, he has ensured that the various examinations run smoothly. He has also been a stalwart of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and a great Form Tutor. Mr Sanderson will be replaced by Mrs Emma Magenty, who will teach Music and some Drama and will strengthen the school's provision in these important areas of school life.

I hope that the students pursuing the Expedition element of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Scheme have an enjoyable time. The school plans to expand the number of sporting opportunities in the next academic year to boost the number of pupils participating in sport. As part of those plans we will be using the School Sport website <http://sport.birkdaleschool.org.uk/?id=25> to help to organise fixtures and communicate team sheets and fixture details to parents. More information will be provided in September.

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.

Thank you very much for completing the on-line survey earlier this term. I attach a summary of the results for your interest. The results will, of course, frame our planning for improving the school over the coming years.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very restful and happy summer holiday and to thank you for your support of the school. The Deputy Head, Mr Nick Pietrek, will be acting Head next term before the new Head, Peter Harris, joins in Birkdale in January 2019. I wish them and Birkdale every success as I move to Stockport Grammar School for the start of the new academic year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P.M. Owen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear first initial and a last name.

Dr Paul Owen
Head Master