

January 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas break and I wish you a very happy New Year. This is indeed a new year for me as I re-join Birkdale this term as the new Head. I left Birkdale as Head of Geography in 2008 having worked at the school for 10 years. Since then I have been Vice Principal at Bournemouth Collegiate School and for the past 5 years as Principal of Ewell Castle School in Surrey. I am very excited to return to Birkdale, it is a very special place and I certainly believe in the School and the core Christian principles that underpin all that it stands for. I hope to build on the significant progress that has been made and will focus on the three foundations on which it stands; academic ambition, a well-rounded education and Christian values. I plan to work in partnership with parents and with this in mind I invite you to join me at a 'Meet the New Head' evening as outlined below when I will introduce myself more fully.

Meet the new Head evenings

S1 and S2 Tuesday 15th January 7pm Heeley Hall

Prep School Thursday 17th January Prep School Hall

Sixth Form Tuesday 22nd January 7pm Heeley Hall

S3 and S4 Thursday 24th January 7pm Heeley Hall followed by the S3 Options Evening

S5 Tuesday 5th February 7pm Heeley Hall followed by the S5 Transition to Sixth Form Evening

This term the sports focus largely moves towards football and I look forward to meeting many parents informally as we provide our support to the teams playing matches on Saturday mornings and also at other occasions during the week.

Caroline and I host the Birkdale Prayer Fellowship in School House twice a term, on Monday 28th January and Monday 11th March at 8pm. I invite you to join us to pray for all aspects of school life.

S5 immediately start the term with their Mocks Examinations and the Upper Sixth follow later with theirs taking place after half term during the week beginning Monday 25th February. I hope, with your encouragement, all these students will plan their time carefully to ensure that they are fully prepared for these examinations.

In the unfortunate event that we experience severe weather conditions this term we will aim to keep the School open however we will communicate any information to you via Twitter, the School website and SMS messaging.

I very much look forward to meeting you at one of the many events this term and wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely

Peter Harris