

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome, to all parents and students; to our new Year 7 and Year 12 students and to those returning after the summer break.

As many of you will already know, for the past 12 mths I have been the Head of Academy at Skipton Girls' High School, a role I have thoroughly embraced and enjoyed. I rapidly developed a sense of the commitment and passion that students, staff, governors and parents have for Skipton Girls' High school and the local community.

I was delighted to be appointed to the role of Headteacher on the news that Jan Renou-Executive Head was chosen by the Department for Education to move into a new role as the Regional School Commissioner for the North.

Previously, I have worked in outstanding schools in Birmingham and Cumbria before moving to work in Bradford finally working for the Bradford Secondary Partnership.

Early on in the autumn term, on **September 11th at 6.00pm – 8.30pm** I would like to invite all **Year 7** parents and carers to attend an open evening. You will have an opportunity to collect your daughter's new laptops, participate in the racing of the fabulous model race cars, made at home over the summer as part of Yr. 6 into Yr7 Engineering transition project and have an opportunity for students to meet new friends. Complementary refreshments will be provided.

There are some areas that I will be looking to work on very early. I'd like to alert you to them now so that we can make a good start in September.

Parents in Partnership

New this year, I would like to establish a *Parents in Partnership Group*, a forum for parents, representative of each age group to have an opportunity to share ideas about the school: aspects of the school you value highly and areas you would like to see improved. Importantly, Senior Leaders will be able to use this forum to consult on matters of school improvement. This group will be led by Mrs Gill Fisher: Assistant Head teacher who will be contacting all parents in the next week with detailed information.

Communication

For several years now we have used email (Simplyclick) as the main means of communicating with parents. During the autumn we will be phasing out paper-based letters and newsletters. This means that all parents must have an email address that they can access each week to pick up on the information the school will send home. By October half term we will operate on the assumption that all families are using email. If this presents real difficulties, we will support you so please let us know if we can help.

Attendance, Behaviour for learning and Uniform

Attendance during this first week back has been exemplary. Evidence shows that great attendance at school is absolutely essential to making good or better progress and achievement. Typically, students who achieve the highest grades at SGHS have an attendance of 95% or higher. Ten school days lost in a year is equivalent to 5% of the school year or 40 lessons missed.

I expect impeccable standards of behaviour and uniform and will be working on ensuring that our high standards are maintained in order that we can focus all of our energy on teaching and learning.

To make a good start, please make sure that your daughters have uniform that is fully compliant with the stated uniform code, including proper shoes and appropriate length of skirt. Students will be expected to wear their uniform smartly and correctly at all times. This year we will be conducting a review of our uniform and intend to consult with both students and parents on potential changes in the near future.

Home learning

I'm a great believer in the value of home learning to develop and deepen a student's knowledge and understanding of a particular subject as well as a means to develop healthy study habits that will last a lifetime. Students at SGHS receive a high volume of home learning every week, and routinely undertake several hours of independent study for GCSEs and A levels. Our guide to home learning can be found on our website and will give you an insight into the expectations of each curriculum area.

The key aspects of Skipton Girls' High school that impress me the most is our shared vision for becoming 'World Class School' and the strong moral purpose shared by staff and governors alike. Every child deserves an outstanding education that is second to none. That is my goal in leading the school and I am looking forward to sharing that experience with you.

I look forward to welcoming you to our school and meeting you during the academic year.

Kind regards,

Mrs J Plews

Headteacher

Skipton Girls' High school

Northern Lights Teaching School Alliance