



de Stafford School

Excellence for all

NEWSLETTER

Friday 12 September 2008

Headteacher: Mr Mark Phillips

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new School Year. I am sure most of you will have picked up from the local papers our excellent news of our GCSE results this summer. For the first time, over 50% of our students have gained 5 or more A*-C grades. The GCSE results show a huge improvement in the School's performance and I would like to congratulate our staff and students on their achievements.

After the delays in receiving them, I can also confirm that the SATs results were greatly improved. I was especially pleased to see that 50% of the year 9's achieved Level 6 or above in Maths.

Mark Phillips

Year 9 Trip - High Ashurst -Tuesday 16 September

A reminder to all Year 9 students who are going on the trip to High Ashurst next Tuesday - please make sure you wear appropriate dress for outdoor activities, including a waterproof and a packed lunch.

GCSE Art Club

Miss Wheeler's GCSE catch up Art Club for Year 10 & 11 is every Thursday in Room C01

Year 9 Students doing GCSE art will need to do an extra lesson every Tuesday, starting Tuesday 16 September.

SKI TRIP 09

September payments are now due please. There will be an update letter for all students /parents next week. There are still a few places available - see Mr Couch asap.

Geography Coursework Club

Mr Kinder will be running the Geography Coursework Club on Mondays after school - Room G17 for first few weeks.

PSA Fashion Show - Friday 19th September - de Stafford School

Doors open 7.00pm. Show starts 7.30pm. Tickets £5 including first glass of wine. All proceeds to PSA. Tickets from G. Jenkins or pay at the door.

PE Extra Curricular Sports - see website..

Year 10 Parent & Student Information Evening - Monday 15 September - 6.45pm - Main Hall

Year 7 & 8 Enrichment Programme - Effective 25 September

Year 7 and Year 8 students will attend Enrichment lessons on a rolling timetable - Year 7 every Thursday, P1 and for Year 8 every Thursday P2. A letter will be sent home with information.

Parents need to ensure that the students bring a change of shoes e.g. water proof shoes, and a raincoat to School for periods 1 and 2, on a Thursday as the lessons will be conducted outside - the students will be informed by the Enrichment Team when it is no longer necessary.

Science Club

Want to come along to Science Club - all the fun side of the subject - Every Tuesday after School for about an hour in Room G01 - everyone welcome..

Dear Parents,

HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR SON/DAUGHTER?

In September Mr Phillips has given me the unique opportunity to help parents get the message across to our youngsters that leading a healthy lifestyle is really important for their future and can be very beneficial in school aswell.

As a mum myself, I'm very aware of the pressure of junk food advertising and the many distractions e.g. computer games/TV, there are to our youngsters, which is basically detrimental to their health. We have been presented with some shocking statistics for the future such as 'by 2050 half of all boys aged 6-10 and 1 in 5 girls will be overweight', but how can we change this? From my position as a PE teacher, it isn't just about what we eat, but also about the lack of exercise; many children are not eating regular meals or burning off the calories and general fitness levels have deteriorated over the last 10 years.

Is your child:

- Getting enough sleep?
- Getting enough exercise? (Recommended to be at least 30mins of exercise where you feel slightly out of breath and sweaty every day)
- Eating their 5-a-day? (It is recommended that we eat 5 portions of fruit and vegetables every day)

In September all pupils in Yr7, 8 and 9 will be fitness tested, to initially select a few pupils from each year group who would most benefit from this special 12 week programme. It would entail spending one of their PE lessons working in a small group to improve their fitness and learn how to adjust their life-style to continue improving fitness after the course. I would like to encourage parents to be involved, as this programme is to build on what most parents are already trying to do.

Fitness test information will be made available to all parents with average expectations for their age, so you can see where your son/daughter fits in. I should emphasize that this course is targeting fitness and if you would like to know more about the programme, please feel free to contact me at the school.

Mrs Banwell

Health and Fitness Co-ordinator