



6th July 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the summer holidays it is always good to look back at the last academic year and forward to the 2017. This year has been an exceptional one for Rushcliffe. At the beginning of the year we were awarded **The World Class Status Quality Mark**. This is a prestigious award which very few schools in the country currently have; indeed we are the only school in the East Midlands to be honoured in such away. The pupils were the driver behind the award and the leadership and enthusiasm with which they engaged with the many criteria that needed evidencing was truly impressive. Towards the end of the year Rushcliffe School was one of only 8 nationally to be nominated as **The TES Secondary School of the Year**. Again this nomination highlighted the real strengths of Rushcliffe; we are a school that not only enables our pupils to achieve exceptional academic results but also encourages and enables them to develop a myriad of other achievements and successes that lie outside of the academic curriculum. We remain committed to our core purpose of enabling **Everyone to Shine Brightly**, a vision that is securely underpinned by our **Core Values** and **The Rushcliffe Way**.

You will have seen in the press our **plans to grow the school**. These come from a desire to continue to serve our community and its existing catchment area. As you will know West Bridgford and Ruddington are very attractive place to live and there are an increasing number of families in the area keen to access the school. With the proposed building of houses at Sharpe Hill, which will also lie within our catchment it is important that we do all we can to provide places so that family links and the special shared community feel that Rushcliffe School has is not broken. We believe the expansion and the new buildings we will gain as part of it means that we can offer facilities and a curriculum that will benefit all our pupils.

It is important that we have **up to date contact details** including email addresses and mobile phone numbers. This enables us to get important information to you either by email or text and send reminders of events. It is also important that we know of any **health issues** your child has so we can support effectively. Please fill out the annual consent form that will be coming your way and make sure we have all relevant information.

We will break up for the summer at **12.30pm on Friday 22nd July**; buses will leave the school at 12.40pm. We have 2 INSET days on our return so we will open to all pupils on **Wednesday 7th September**.

We will **welcome new members of staff** in September and will say goodbye to some well-respected and much loved teachers at the end of this term.

Mr Smith, Head of Humanities is leaving us to take up a position at Greenwood Academies Trust, Mr McCann in PE is returning to Northern Ireland to teach, Ms Adams (Maths) and Ms Rice (English) will also be leaving Rushcliffe. Dr Jackson will be starting a yearlong secondment at Arnold Hill and will also be joined there by Ms Deans from the English Department. Early in the new term Mrs Corbett will start her maternity leave. Mr Dakers will lead on Pupil Wellbeing in her absence. After a number of years' service Mrs Timms will be retiring from her role in the sixth form. I know she has built strong and supportive relationships with a number of our post 16 pupils and their families and will be sorely missed.

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As well as welcoming Mr Shaw into PE, Ms Cross to our Science department, Mrs Davis to Languages and Mr Burgess to English, we are welcoming Mr Ward back to Rushcliffe after a 2 term secondment to Arnold Hill.

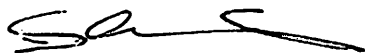
This September will see the introduction of a new school skirt. It is only available from a single supplier and can be purchased through a pop up shop in school or via their website. Information about buying the skirt has already gone home. Please do check the **uniform requirements on the school website** before you go shopping. Our uniform policy is very clear and we appreciate your support by ensuring your children follow it. Please also note that hair colour needs to be natural and hair styles appropriate for school. Unfortunately a few pupils arrived with inappropriate hair colours after the summer break and had to go home to dye it. Not the type of start to the school year we would all hope for.

On Friday 15th July we will be holding our **annual festival in aid of the school we support in Guatemala**. We hope to have the Guatemalan Ambassador to open the festival. The festival will take place in the afternoon for pupils then will **open up to the wider community from 5.00pm until 7.00pm**. I hope as many of you as possible can come along. More information will be on the website closer to the day.

Results day for A Levels is Thursday 18th August and for **GCSE it is Thursday 25th August**. Pupils have worked hard and conducted themselves very well throughout the exam period. I know for pupils and parent/carers alike exam time and awaiting results can be stressful. We wish all our pupils well and will be here to offer congratulations, support and guidance over results day and beyond.

As always we are very grateful for the continued support parents and carers give the school. May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very relaxing and happy summer break.

Yours sincerely



STEVE LEWIS
Head Teacher