

29<sup>th</sup> April, 2009

Dear Parents,

### **Open Day**

By all measures, Open Day was a great success. Almost all parents attended with their children, and were impressed by the many and various displays of work. The exceptionally positive feedback which the teachers received was very greatly appreciated. We had more prospective parents attending than ever before, many as a result of fulsome recommendation from current parents – thank you for this support. The Year 5 and 6 guides, who gave Upper School tours to prospective parents, were impressively smart, confident and polite. And the sun shone!

### **Comic Relief**

Jessica, Carys and Priya, all from Year 5, organised and ran a basketball shoot-out at school shortly before the Easter break. Their enterprise created a lot of enjoyment for the participants, and raised £32 for the Comic Relief charity appeal. Well done girls!

### **Jane McMorrow**

Mrs. McMorrow will be leaving St. Helen's at the end of this term and will be moving to another independent school which is closer to her home. She leaves with a heavy heart, as she has thoroughly enjoyed her short time here. Mrs. McMorrow is a warm and talented teacher and will be greatly missed.

### **Term programme – amendments**

An updated term programme, with a few amendments (in bold) is enclosed.

### **Parents' Evenings Years 2 – 6**

Parents' Evenings for Years 2 to 6 will take place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May (4 p.m. – 6 p.m.) and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May (7 p.m. – 9 p.m.) All appointment lists have been posted in the south entrance corridor (by the girls' toilets). Please make your appointments by signing the appropriate lists.

A number of specialist teachers will be in attendance and appointments may be made by signing the appropriate lists. Those attending will be Mrs. Allery (music), Mrs. Gilham (4H/Y5/Y6 Science), Mr. Lewis (ICT, Y5 maths, 4P science), Miss Walker (PE) and Mr. Dyson (PE). The specialist teachers will be in the Upper School hall; all other appointments will take place in your child's normal classroom.

Where maths is taught in sets (Years 2 - 6) your child's form teacher will have been briefed by the maths teacher and will be able to report on progress. Most maths teachers are also form teachers and will be busy seeing parents of the children in their own forms. This is the case also with French teaching, and a number of other subject areas, which vary from class to class. If however you would like to meet the maths teacher or another teacher who is not free on the Parents' Evening, please make an appointment to meet at another time.

The teachers' timetables will be tight, and we would ask you to avoid over-running your ten-minute allocations. If more discussion time is needed, then you should make a further appointment to see the teacher on another day, rather than hold up other parents.

If you are able to arrange for your children to remain at home it would be helpful as supervision will not be available. Please note that we are bound by a planning condition prohibiting playground activities after 6 p.m. If it is necessary for your children to attend, then please ask them to bring a book and they will be able to read quietly in the music room, but please note that they will not be supervised.

The car park will be busy, so please take care not to box other cars in, or to block access to neighbours' drives.

### **Choral Speaking Competition**

A new event, the Choral Speaking Competition for Years 4, 5 and 6, will take place on Friday evening, 8<sup>th</sup> May. Tickets will not be required and all Y4, 5 and 6 parents are warmly invited to attend.

As you may recall, we are opening up the ground floor of 227 Long Lane in the summer and creating a new library. The Parents' Association is very supportive of this project and will arrange for a selection of new books to be displayed at the Choral Speaking Competition. We are hoping that as many parents as possible will buy one of these books for the new library. Those who do will have their names inscribed in the books and their generosity will hence be recorded for posterity (or at least for the life of the book!)

Leaving Year 6 families sometimes like to donate a trophy, normally to be presented annually at Prizegiving or Sports Day. We would like to be able to present a trophy to the winning class in the Choral Speaking Competition; if any Y6 family would like to make such a donation, please let us know.

More details of this event will be sent home to you soon.

### **Forthcoming events - reminder**

Fri	May 1	5H class assembly 10:30 a.m. – parents welcome
Mon	May 4	Bank Holiday
Tue	May 5	Parents' Evening Years 2-6, 4 – 6 p.m.
Thu	May 7	District Swimming Gala 7 p.m.
Fri	May 8	Choral Speaking Competition at All Saints' Church
Sat	May 9	Entry morning for new Nursery children

Yours faithfully,