



WEST HILL SCHOOL

Aiming High Since 1927

Headteacher: **A F Harrison** BSc (Hons)

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Dear Parent/Carer,

It is a pleasure to write my first letter of the new academic year to you to highlight some of our successes over the previous academic year and some reminders of some key dates and arrangements in the coming weeks.

Success Stories

GCSE Examination Results 2018

As you may be aware last year saw the introduction of new GCSE examinations in both Mathematics and English. This year a further 20 subjects were introduced for examination. Not only were these examinations more challenging than those which went before them, they also had a new grading system which instead of being letter grades A*-G, these were replaced by numbers grades 9-1. Grade 9 being a new highest grade which is even higher than the old A*.

The percentage of boys achieving a grade 5 or higher in both English and Mathematics

The percentage of boys achieving grade 5 or higher in both English and Maths this year was 46% beating last year's and our best result to date.

A/A* & 7/9

As I said earlier grade A and A* have been replaced in virtually all subjects by grades 7 and 8 and a new gold standard grade 9 has been introduced. In terms of these grades some of our boys achieved outstanding results.

23 boys achieved at least 5 grades equal to or higher than grade A/7

14 boys achieved at least 7 grades equal to or higher than a grade A/7

4 boys achieved at least 9 grades equal to or higher than a grade A/7

In total the boys achieved 100 grade 8s and 9s (the old A* and better) and 42 grade 9s.

These are outstanding outcomes for our boys.

Progress 8

Last year I wrote to you explaining a new measure which is the main one the DfE use to judge pupil outcomes and this is Progress 8.

The DfE have produced a short video explaining the Progress 8 measure and this can be found on the following link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IAEgFMSGDY>

Due to the introduction of the new qualifications in 20 subjects in addition to Mathematics and English last year together with the fact that Progress 8 is not calculated and released by the DfE until October at the earliest we cannot provide an accurate Progress 8 figure at this time.



Four Peaks 2017-18

The 4 Peaks challenge team consisted of five year 11 pupils who successfully summited the 4062m peak of The Gran Paradiso, Italy's tallest mountain. This outstanding achievement is the reward for all the time, effort and hard work the pupils put in over the last 18 months.

Having completed all fundraising and training by the start of their exams the boys completed the National 3 Peaks of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike & Snowdon the first week of July.

Congratulations to the boys who have also managed to raise just over £5000 (tbc) for the schools nominated charity Believe & Achieve. The team really Aimed High and succeeded.

A special thanks from the school to Mr Hind and his team, without whom this extraordinary experience would not have been possible.

Rockley Water Sports Experience 2017-18

I would like to offer my congratulations to all the pupils and staff members, Miss Mason, Mr Carty, Mr Evans, Mrs Corrigan, Mr Lawton and Miss Largey who took part in this summer's very successful Rockley water sports trip to the south of France.

The pupils took part in a wide range of activities including Kayaking, Windsurfing, Sailing Darts and Pico boats, Hi ropes, and Mountain biking.

The Rockley staff commended our pupils on their excellent behaviour and attitude throughout the trip. The pupils have developed many new skills, increased in confidence and independence throughout this experience.

We look forward to launching next year's trip during canteen assemblies on Wed 26th September for years 7, 8 and 10 and on Thursday 27th September for years 9 and 11.

Key Dates

Advanced Notice: Moving On Open Evening 6:00 – 8:00pm Thursday 27th September 2018

School will close at 1.55 pm on Thursday 27th September. Pupils having lunch between 1.25 and 1.55 pm (pupils in 9A and years 10 and 11 only) may leave the premises once they have had lunch. This is the day of our Moving on Open Evening and it is important that school is well prepared and looking at its best for the large number of visitors that we expect.

Many boys will be invited back to help during the evening and by finishing early it will give them ample time to get home and return to school before the event gets underway. A waiting room will be made available for pupils whose parents would prefer their son to remain on the school premises until the normal closing time.

Please note that there will be no parking on the school site except for those who require access arrangements.

Calendar 2018 – 2019

Please refer to our website for term dates this year and also the more detailed version of the whole school calendar to check for sports practices and fixtures, examination dates, parents' evenings and any other important events concerning your son's year.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. A. F. Harrison
Headteacher