

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2015

September 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to thank you all again for sending students back smartly dressed and with the right attitude towards their learning. Our new Year 7 students are also setting a very high standard in this regard. If there are any issues with students not wearing the correct uniform then we will contact you. In cases of excessive hardship please don't hesitate to contact the relevant Head of Year.

We welcomed some new teaching staff this September and all have settled in really well so far:

Mrs Sharp	New teacher within English
Mr Packwood	New teacher in Science (Physics specialist)
Miss Tombs	New teacher in Science (Biology specialist)
Mr Dales	New teacher in PE

A number of experienced staff have taken on new responsibilities:

Mrs Bailey	Deputy Headteacher
Miss Wildsmith	Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral)
Mrs Butcher	Temporary Assistant Headteacher (CPD)
Mr Little	Assistant Headteacher (Head of Sixth Form)
Mrs Brown	Head of Year 11
Mr Williams	Temporary Head of Science
Mr Workman	Temporary Head of Humanities
Miss Speed	Head of Year 7
Mrs Dowler	Head of Year 9

We also welcomed a number of new support staff into the Main Office and Learning Support.

At the start of term we said a sad farewell to Mrs Waring who fulfilled her ambition of becoming a police officer, having been a volunteer 'Special' for the last four years. We will continue to work with Mrs Waring in her new role as she will continue to take a leading role within the school's Duke of Edinburgh programme. Mrs Brown has taken over Mrs Waring's role as the new Head of Year 11, while Mrs Dowler is the new Head of Year 9.

Just before the summer break we had of course just been inspected by a team from Ofsted, who praised so much of what they had seen, including the behaviour and attitude of the students and all tiers of leadership and management. However, actual outcomes were still letting the school down in terms of our performance, particularly within English GCSE.

Unfortunately this situation did not improve with the recent summer results. In 2013 the first new English teacher was recruited, followed at intervals, by five more before the end of the last academic year. This clearly resulted in a stronger team than there had previously been, but it was unable to turn results around and they went down. However, I am offering my personal reassurance to every parent and carer that this situation will be remedied by the summer of 2016. I am now confident that the extra work done in partnership with the Exam Board and the extra resources invested within the Faculty will produce a profound and significant improvement within results.

Our triple Science results were in line with last year's results with 53% securing A*-C grades in at least 2 of the subjects, while Maths results within this particular year group were slightly below this figure, at 49%.

There were of course many successes to report as the results below illustrate:

Outstanding performances were recorded by the following, in terms of both final grades and the 'Levels of Progress' they have made since leaving Primary School:

Names	A*/A Grades	Additional A Level Critical Thinking
AHMED Usman	4	
BANO Marya	8	D
CHAUDHARY Kainat	4	
DOUGHTY Charlotte	8	
DUTOY Alex	6	B
PALMER Chloe	6	E
POWELL Naomi	5	
RAZAQ Aleesha	5	

In terms of making progress well above the national average, a second group merited huge praise:

Tamarra Johnson Average 4 Levels of Progress (LOP).

Mitchell Harris Average 3.9 LOP.

Maciej Okoniewski Average 4 LOP.

Aveen Hamid Average 3.8 LOP.

Kayleigh Suchar Average 3.5. LOP.

Niamh McDonagh Average 3.3 LOP.

Connie Jordan-Turner Average 3.3 LOP.

A further seven Year 11 students also achieved an AS level in Critical Thinking.

Of course, there are always some areas where we still feel that students can improve significantly and we will be working on this during the year. Open Study (formerly titled Saturday Club) 10am – 12 noon, supporting progress within English, Maths & Science, has already begun. There are also extra lessons, revision sessions, and days for study skills (November 16th) and so on during the coming months.

Preparation for the Year 11 mock exams in December has already begun and I would urge you to underline to your child that work for success in the summer of 2016 must begin now. Individual revision planner sheets are available to all students in the Library. These enable students to systematically chart and time their own revision.

As for all other year groups, final year exams are in the summer term and students need to recognise that preparation for these cannot begin too early.

The Sixth Form

Within the Sixth Form we recorded our best ever results and our average grade per student across all Level 3 courses rose to a strong C- and Vocational to Distinction +.

Even better, was the news that a higher proportion of students from Paget, applying for university, secured a place at their university of choice than from any other local provider. Those that did not opt for university this year were all successful in securing apprenticeships or employment.

Among the outstanding performers within Year 13 there were:

- ✓ Nimra Akhtar achieved ABB in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics.
- ✓ Aksaa Noveen achieved ABB in Sociology, English Literature and History. Aksaa secured a place at Liverpool University studying Law.
- ✓ Kaczia Bridges achieved BBBC and is off to Nottingham Trent University to study Law.
- ✓ Emily Brookes achieved ABC in Sociology, Psychology and History. Emily secured a place at Durham University studying Psychology.
- ✓ Hassan Razaq achieved BBC in Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry.
- ✓ Cashel O'Neill exceeded all of his target grades and achieved Distinction*, Distinction* and C. Cashel is studying Education and Sport at Winchester University.

We are also extremely proud of the following students who exceeded their target grades in all of their subjects: Waqqar Azam, Yehya Jaffar, Megan Mosley, Zenim Saddique and Chloe Wright.

Our results in Year 12 were also very positive with 70% of students achieving their target grade. We expect 2016 to be another fantastic year.

Our Sixth Form programme is currently in great demand and we are turning away students without the right attitude, work ethic and attendance. Those who have been accepted are looking to build towards future success. We have just admitted 30 more students into the Sixth Form than in 2014.

The Sixth form is now full and we have been forced to turn students away this week.

This year we are proud to launch the BTEC Driver Level 2 course in conjunction with Nottingham Road Safety. We are the first school in Burton to offer this course and hope that it helps keep our students safe on the road. We are also continuing our long, successful relationship with the Anne Lee School of Speech and Drama. Any students interested in either of these fantastic opportunities should speak to a member of the Sixth Form team. Students may be eligible for financial support towards these and other educational resources through the 16-19 Student Bursary. All students have received an application form and should return this as soon as possible.

We have also launched our Sixth Form 'Kindle' scheme, where all students will receive a Kindle tablet to help them through their studies. These tablets will allow students access to excellent resources wherever they choose to study. Please help the students take care of these devices as they will be able to keep them once they have completed their courses.

If you want to find out for yourself what is going on in the Sixth Form please come along to our Open Evening on 12th November between 6-8pm.

Extra-Curricular Activities

There are a wide range of activities on offer after school for all different ages. These include additional qualifications, educational trips/visits and sporting activities. We also provide an Open Study Group on a Saturday morning for all students. Support is given by Maths, English and Science teachers for GCSE courses throughout the year, but it is also an opportunity for students to complete homework. Over the years this has proven very popular and has helped to prepare students for their examinations. Please encourage your child to take advantage of all these opportunities.

Events over the past half term

Students involved in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme went further in securing their bronze awards while a significant group went on their Silver Expedition, which is held over 3 days and pushes young people further still. All were a credit to the school (a big thank you to Mrs. Waring and her team).

The ADT Department took a group of students to the Art & Design show in Stoke and to the Graduate Show at Derby University.

The English Faculty took groups of younger students to listen to various authors in Hagley Park.

The Maths Faculty took Year 10 students to a Maths Conference in Wolverhampton.

Forthcoming Events

We are in the process of setting up a parent, carer, teachers and friends association called 'Paget Pals'. The inaugural meeting was held on Thursday 24th September at 6pm. All parents and carers are welcome to get involved. If you are interested but were unable to make the meeting, could you please contact the school office or email pagetpals@paget.staffs.sch.uk.

- Year 6 Open Evening – Wednesday 30th September at 7.00pm.
- We will hold our usual Remembrance Service on November 11th. As we remember those who gave their lives in war, a bugler from the British Legion will again accompany us.
- Our Sixth Form Open evening will be on November 13th and all are welcome between 6-8pm.

Settling In Evening for parents & carers of students within Years 7, 10, 12 and 13 will be between 3pm and 5pm on Wednesday 14th October. Your child will soon be bringing home a letter regarding this event in order that you may book an appointment with his or her tutor.

Holidays

We are not allowed to give permission for students to take holidays in term time. Any absence has to be recorded as 'unauthorised' and checked by the Educational Welfare Officer. Fines/penalties will be issued to families that take their child out of school to go on holiday. If you feel that you do have good reason to take your child out of school, other than for medical/dental/ophthalmic appointments, please put this in writing to your child's Head of Year.

Training Days

There are no further Training Days this term. Our next training day is 7th April 2016.

Paget Community Orchard and Farm

We continue to take great pride in our orchard and farm. Planned events included the recent open day on the 27th September and forthcoming days on 10th & 11th October. There is a bumper crop of fruit in the orchard and 'Apple Day' was on Saturday 26th September where members of the community came to help pick the crop and sampled apple muffins and freshly pressed apple juice.

You may also visit from 10.00am – 2.00pm Monday – Friday during term time.

FROG – Virtual Learning Environment

Frog is the school Virtual Learning Environment which allows students to access their learning both in and outside of the classroom.

Frog is the first place to look for information of events happening around the school and aims to keep students up to date with the latest news.

All departments have a presence on Frog with some allowing access to work sheets while others showcase work being completed by students.

Access to Frog is automatically given to students upon joining Paget.

Parking

Your continued cooperation in **not** using the school drive to drop students off in the morning or pick students up at the end of the day is much appreciated. It is easier and safer to drop/pick up at the end of the drive.

Riding Bikes

We always encourage students to ride to school on a bike or walk, rather than take the bus. It's much healthier. However, there are occasional reports from some local people that some students are not taking sufficient care on the roads. If your child comes to school on his/her bike then please talk to them about being safe and taking care on the busy roads around the school. Secure individual bike lockers are available at no cost (see Mrs Manek– Business Manager).

It has been a very busy start to the year with record numbers of students wanting to join our school. However, please do not be afraid to contact us if you have any concerns. The first point of contact is the form tutor or Head of Year. Success is the result of hard work by students in partnership with staff and families.

Yours faithfully,

Marc Howell
(Head teacher)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2015 – 16

Autumn Term 2015

School Opens	Monday Tuesday Wednesday	07 September 08 September 23 September	Staff Training Day School opens to students Staff Training Day
Half Term	Friday Monday	23 October 2 November	School Closes for half term School opens to students
School Closes	Friday	18 December	Christmas Holiday

Spring Term 2016

School opens	Monday	04 January	School opens to students
Half Term	Friday Monday	12 February 22 February	School closes for half term School opens
School closes	Thursday	24 March	School closes for Easter Holiday

Summer Term 2016

School opens	Thursday Friday Monday	07 April 08 April 11 April	Staff Training Day Staff Training Day School opens to students
School closed	Monday	02 May	May Day Bank Holiday
Half Term	Friday Monday Thursday	27 May 06 June 07 July	School closes for half term School opens Staff Training Day
School closes	Friday	22 July	School closes for Summer Holiday

Parents' / Carers' Consultation Evening

Thursday	14 January 2016	Year 10	1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.
Thursday	21 January 2016	Year 12/13	1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.
Tuesday	26 January 2016	Year 8	1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday	3 February 2016	Year 11	1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.
Thursday	03 March 2016	Year 9	1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.
Tuesday	15 March 2016	Year 7	1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.