



Le Rocquier School

Tuesday 13 September 2016

Our Ref: 20160913/PS/JM

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome Back!

First of all thank you, you have helped to make a very good start to the new academic year. The students are looking very smart, which really does make a difference; thank you for your continued support with uniform, it is very much appreciated. The proud feeling I get at this time of year is bolstered by the smart appearance and excellent behaviour of so many enthusiastic students. I was also extremely proud to see so many of the Class of 2016 doing so well in their examinations. The numbers of top grades increased significantly with two students gaining 16 A*s between them! The summary of results will shortly be available on the school website.

Key Dates Coming Up

Y10 Parents: Welcome to Y10 Evening, Thursday 22 September at 6.30pm

All Y10 parents are welcome to attend to find out about Y10 curriculum and advice about how to support your child in Y10.

Y11 Parents: Welcome to Y11 Evening, Thursday 22 September at 7.15pm

All Y11 parents are welcome to attend to find out about how they can support their child in Y11 and be advised of any key dates for this academic year. If you attended last year's September presentation you do not need to come again!

Keeping You in the Loop

As many of you know, I write a weekly update to all parents, which is available on the school website and is sent out to parents on Parent Mail, Twitter and Facebook. I am actively trying to reduce postage costs this year, so we will, where possible, use these more cost efficient means of communication. Could I please ask you to double check that we have your correct contact details: phone numbers, land lines and mobiles, as well as up to date email addresses. If you are unsure how to access Parent Mail, please contact any of the ladies in the office.

Bring Your Own Device

Despite limited funds we are moving at pace with ICT developments. We are actively encouraging students to bring ICT devices to school to improve their learning. The school promotes the use of two main devices, Apple iPads and Google Chrome Books. The former is generally more useful in Key Stage 3 and the latter in Key Stage 4. The school has worked in partnership with the JEC to offer parents a very competitive rate for purchasing these devices for as little as £10 per month; please see the school website for more details.

We are aiming to sign up Year 11 and Year 7 students in the next few weeks, this will enable them to use the school's internal WIFI, which is filtered. Years 8, 9 and 10 should follow before the end of term.



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I have made it clear to all the students that it is their responsibility to use their devices appropriately, however, if they use them inappropriately then there will be consequences. All teachers are being asked to make it clear when and where devices can be used. We are currently working with Googles Apps for Education (GAPE) in many subject areas and we will also shortly be expanding to use Microsoft 365 in school. Both of these ICT platforms will enable significant improvements for both teachers and students over the next few years.

Staff Training: Early School Closure

In an attempt to increase the amount of training time available to all our staff we are planning to close the school early on three occasions this academic year. (We, as an Island, have significantly less training time available compared to our colleagues in the UK). The first of these will be **Thursday 20 October when school will finish at 12:20pm**. This will enable a major training programme to be delivered to all the staff of Le Rocquier, Les Quennevais and Haute Vallee. The two dates for the Spring and Summer Terms are **Friday 17 February and Wednesday 17 May** respectively. Please note supervised activities will be made available for those students who cannot safely leave the school at these early times, however, where possible, students are expected to go home at that time.

Staff Changes

This year we have a few staff changes which are highlighted below:

- Mrs Banks has been promoted to Acting Deputy Head. Mrs Banks will be responsible for Pastoral care throughout the school whilst our other Deputy Head, Mrs Baglin, is responsible for all Curriculum areas.
- Miss Losh, Mrs Stier (was Miss Rabaste) and Mr Nerac have all been promoted to seconded positions on the Senior Leadership Team)
- Mr Ward and Mr Brignall have swapped roles; Mr Brignall is now Head of Science and Mr Ward is in charge of Work Experience and School Visits.
- New staff include:
 - Miss Francesca Allen - Head of RS
 - Miss Katie Holland – DT tutor
 - Mr Daniel Spencer – Head of Geography
 - Miss Niamh Kearney – English tutor
 - Mr Jose Galan Calballero – ICT tutor
 - Mr Robert Lawrynovicz – Maths tutor
 - Miss Sophie Renouf – JTGTP (training) tutor
 - Miss Samantha Blampied – Laboratory Technician
 - Mrs Janine Milner – Administration Manager
 - Mrs Sarah Bisson – Lunchtime Supervisor
 - Mrs Kathleen Roberts – Lunchtime Supervisor
 - Mrs Judite Andrade – Kitchen Assistant



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Funding

As many of you will have realised, the States of Jersey are actively looking to reduce the costs of States expenditure. This is gradually impacting on the service we provide and therefore I have reluctantly put on hold many of our 'extras'; the Investors in People Award and the Gifted and Talented accreditation, just to name two. If any parents have any contacts that may be able to support the school with some form of sponsorship to support these 'extras', then please contact me.

It must be noted that the absence of these 'extras' will not directly affect the day-to-day achievement of students within the school. However, these initiatives do make a difference in establishing our school as a caring and solid part of the community.

We are also looking for sponsorship of our Year 7 football team who have entered the UK national schools competition. We are hoping for and expecting success, which may result in seven trips to the UK! Any support from a Jersey business, who would like to share this success, would be greatly appreciated; please contact myself or Mr Webster in the PE Department.

School Calendar

All the major events and dates for this academic year can be found on the school calendar which has been uploaded onto the school website today.

Finally, let me finish by repeating what I have said in assemblies this week:

"We are a great school, with great students who have the full support of staff and parents to be the best that they can be!"

Yours sincerely

Phil Slater
Headteacher



Le Rocquier School

Our School
Our Education
Our Future

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