



December 6<sup>th</sup> 2013

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Additional INSET Day, Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 2014**

Staff and Governors are keen to forge ahead with improving results and student progress throughout the school. One clear and immediate issue arising from this is the need for quality staff training. The opportunity for staff to work on key issues in the near future will make a real difference to our progress. The school calendar, set twelve months ago, has little provision for in-service training days (INSET). I have therefore approached the Governors for permission to have an additional INSET. There is a careful balance between losing a day of schooling and the benefit that this time will bring to the school and I would not even ask for this day if I did not feel that it was essential.

The recommendation was to make Monday January 6<sup>th</sup> an INSET day. Although this is soon, the governors and myself felt that it would be less disruptive to add the INSET day to the holiday and also to choose a day when some primary schools were also on INSET and families may have children at home already. This has been approved by Governors and our School Improvement Partner from the Local Authority. **Therefore may I inform you that term 3 will now start on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January.**

One focus of the day will be homework. A clear outcome will be the implementation of an online homework system which we aim to make available to parents early in the new year. This will mean that as parents you will be able to see homework that has been set. The day will also give teachers the opportunity to improve other areas of our action plan, including improving the quality of marking and developing differentiation.

While the teachers are undertaking their training, we would also like the students to be engaged in some independent learning. We will therefore set work for each student to complete during the day. Before the end of term, your child will be given work relevant to the subjects that they usually study on that day, a Monday B week. We also appreciate that it may be difficult for you to make alternative childcare arrangements. We are therefore ensuring that it will be possible for your child to attend school, during normal hours, to undertake this independent study under supervised conditions. Any student who attends lessons off site on that day should attend them as normal and likewise any 6<sup>th</sup> form students will be expected to attend lessons at Henry Box School as normal. Transport will be available and a limited selection of food will be available to purchase from the restaurant.

I do thank you for your understanding in this matter. It is a one-off event that will make a real difference and provide us with the unique opportunity to address issues from the Ofsted inspection. We are working tirelessly to make rapid improvement and raise achievement and aspiration.

**If you wish your child to attend supervised study on Monday 6 January 2014, please could you complete the slip below and return it to your child's form tutor by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December.**



I would also like to add a final thank you to the many parents and students who have sent messages of support in recent weeks. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our Christmas Concert on 18<sup>th</sup> December and otherwise may I wish you a happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Mr RW Shadbolt  
Headteacher

Mr R Walton  
Chair of Governors

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I wish my son/daughter to attend supervised study on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Child/Children's Names \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor Group \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Carers Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Transport is required from \_\_\_\_\_ Food is required: Yes/No