

10 September 2015

Headteacher: Christopher Anders BA (Hons) MA

Dear Parent/Guardian

### Welcome

On behalf of the school I would like to welcome you to the new year.

It was great to see so many of you at the target setting day on 2 September. Evidence shows that students are more likely to be successful where school and family work together. If you were unable to attend on the day, please contact your son or daughter's mentor if you wish to discuss targets for the year.

If you are the parent of a Year 7 student, thank you again for choosing Park. There is no doubt that the Year 7 students have impressed everyone at school and we look forward to working with them and you over the next five years.

September 2015 is an exciting time for all of us at Park as we now have the whole of the new school available to us. There will be an open afternoon on Monday, 12 October for anyone who wishes to come and have a look around the new facilities. More details will follow later.

### Exams

In August we received Year 11 exam results. Although they were lower than expected for some students, overall Year 11 achieved better results than last year. On this note, you will be aware that exams are getting harder and all indications are that they will continue to do so. Also, there is no opportunity for retakes while at school. This is the last year of the present GCSE courses in English and maths. When the present Year 10 students sit their exams at the end of their Year 11 it will be a new exam, new syllabus and new grade system with a 9 to 1 grade, not an A\* to G. This will bring its challenges. Year 10 students were asked to give you a letter outlining how we hope to support them through this period of change. A copy of the letter is enclosed for families of Year 10 students just in case that letter got mislaid between school and home. If you have any questions on the content, please contact either myself or Mrs Hamson.

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### Attendance and Punctuality

This year we will be putting a high emphasis on both attendance and punctuality. In a letter at the end of term I explained that Hampshire's Code of Practice for attendance has been amended. We will follow this advice and consider issuing fixed penalty fines for any student whose attendance is below 90% or who is persistently late to school or lessons. This is in addition to fines for holidays that are taken in term time. If you are considering a family holiday outside the school breaks, please contact Ms Bannard (Years 7 and 8) or Mrs Dare (Years 9, 10 and 11) before making any booking.

A reminder that if your child needs to leave school during the school day for an appointment, they should bring a signed note into school to present to their teacher at the start of the lesson. Before leaving school he/she must report to student reception to sign out. We ask that you keep these appointments to a minimum.

### Behaviour

We have introduced a new tiered system of sanctions within the classroom. Our system of 'on call', detentions and seclusions is also developing. A copy of the tiered sanctions is enclosed with this letter.

### Key dates for this term

- **Thursday, 24 September** – Year 6 open evening
- **Tuesday, 29 September** – Year 10 and 11 parents' evening (details to follow)
- **Monday, 12 October** – school closed to students. In the afternoon the school will be opened for an opportunity to view the new buildings and facilities. Further details to follow.
- **Thursday, 22 and Friday, 23 October** – school closed to students
- **Monday, 26 October to Friday, 30 October** – half term
- **Thursday, 12 November** – Year 7 settling in parents' evening and Year 11 parents' evening
- **Monday, 9 to Friday, 13 November** – Year 10 and 11 mock exam week
- **Thursday, 19 November** – Year 12 celebration evening
- **w/c 7 December** – school production week
- **Friday, 18 December** - last day of autumn term

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Walker'.

Sue Walker  
Deputy Headteacher