

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

My first term at Carr Hill has passed very quickly. I have to say that I feel very much at home here and I am very grateful for the welcome I have received. I have very much enjoyed getting to know the staff, meeting students, trying to learn as many names as I can and visiting lessons for part of each day to see the excellent work which is being done day in and day out.

It is clear that as a school we have a very committed staff who really do go the extra mile for our students. I would like to thank all those staff who have made possible so many extra-curricular trips, visits and events during this term which have allowed our students to enrich their knowledge, develop new skills, demonstrate their talent and experience new horizons. A great deal of work is also going into preparing students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 for public exams which begin in earnest on May 11th. Again, I would like to record my thanks to all the staff who are putting in so much work on top of class time to ensure that our students have the best possible opportunity in their exams. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all our exam students the very best and hope that when they open the results envelope in the summer they will feel they have done themselves justice.

When I spoke to all the staff and students in my first week here I emphasised the idea that this is not 'my' school but 'our' school – a community of staff, parents, carers, governors and students at the heart of it. It is for our young people that we exist, that we work tirelessly and for whom we want the very best. One of my priorities in the coming weeks is that as a whole school community we revisit our mission statement so that we can clearly restate the purpose and values of our school in a succinct, informative and inspirational way. No other school has our mix of students, parents, carers, staff, location, and community – but what else makes us unique? I am sure that 'in pursuit of excellence' and being 'proud to belong' will remain at the centre of that but how do we then live up to that mission and ensure excellence in every aspect of school life?

Part of pursuing excellence is that we budget wisely so that we can refurbish parts of the school and improve the learning environment. Over the February half term the gym was fitted with new double glazing, was decorated and the floor sanded and resealed. It really now does look good. We want to further improve the quality of sports provision and so over the summer holidays this year it is our intention to refurbish the sports dome and all the changing rooms – much needed work. We are also planning to replace all the windows in the Maths rooms with new PVC double glazing which will not only enhance the appearance but create warmer and drier classrooms!



Headteacher Mr A Waller MA, BA Hons

Deputy Headteacher Miss A Jordinson BSc Hons

Royal Avenue | Kirkham | Preston | Lancashire | PR4 2ST

T 01772 682008 E contact@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk W www.carrhillschool.com

As we move into Spring and begin to appreciate the longer days, the return of colour to nature, new birth and hopefully warmer days it is the idea of 'growth' which is often reflected on. During our two week break the Christian community celebrates Easter with new life and light conquering darkness being central themes in the Resurrection. At the same time the Jewish community celebrates Passover - remembering liberation from tyranny and slavery in the time of Moses. I hope that as we read this magazine and enjoy the news of our school and see the experiences of our students it will remind us all that we have a huge responsibility to help our young people flourish and grow with the resilience to overcome adversity and be ambassadors for good in an often troubled world.

With Best Wishes,



Mr A Waller
Headteacher



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