



# The Armthorpe School

A Specialist School in The Arts and Sport



July 2010

Dear Parents / Carers

As we approach the end of the school year, I write to inform you of important dates and arrangements, both before the end of term and for the return to school in September.

## Staff leaving the school / end of term

A number of staff are either retiring (R) from teaching or leaving the school to take up new posts from September:

Jane Cailey-Booth	Modern Foreign Languages
Graham Broadbent	Deputy Headteacher
Maureen Burke (R)	Senior Midday Supervisor
Graham Chappell (R)	Teacher of History/Sixth Form Mentor
John Deeney (R)	Teacher of PE/SSCO
Julie Diver	Head of Year Seven/Teacher of English
Jane Grainger	Learning Support Assistant
Jacqueline Johnson	Learning Support Assistant
Janet King (R)	Head of Sixth Form
Rebecca Marchant	Pastoral Assistant
Cherryl Maltby (R)	Teacher of History/SEN (formerly Deputy Head)
Ashley Pascoe	Head of PE
Matthew Senior	Cover Supervisor
Jonathan Sharpe	Head of Year Eight/Teacher of Mathematics
Linda Sisson (R)	Head of Geography/Careers
Jeff Wilde (R)	Teacher of Mathematics

On behalf of everyone associated with the school, I would like to express my thanks for the commitment and professionalism which these colleagues have displayed during their time at The Armthorpe School. I am sure that many parents will have cause to be grateful in particular to the staff who are retiring and who, between them, have given a total of 212 years of outstanding service. **School will close for the Summer holidays at 1.30 p.m. on Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>**, to enable us to say goodbye to these colleagues and to celebrate their achievements.

Any parents / carers who would like to make arrangements for their child to remain in school until 2.55 p.m. should contact us by Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>.

Continued overleaf . .

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Headteacher: Andy Cope BA MEd

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## **School uniform Y7 – Y11**

We expect all students to take pride in wearing the school uniform which is a vital means of identification with our values and ethos. Parental support for school policy is essential in this area in order to maintain high standards and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our basic requirements:

- flat, plain black shoes (all black, no logos); training shoes or canvas shoes, whether black or not, are not allowed;
- plain dark grey or black trousers (jeans, sports or combat trousers are not acceptable);
- a plain grey or black skirt may be worn instead, provided it is of reasonable length;
- a black blazer and the school badge must be worn all year round;
- a plain white shirt with a collar; this must be long enough to be tucked in and have a top button which can be fastened;
- the school tie, knot up to the collar, four double stripes showing (Y7 students will wear clip on ties from September);
- earrings, studs, jewellery are not allowed for safety reasons;
- a school bag is a compulsory item of equipment.

**I am particularly keen to emphasise the school's position on any type of body piercing; this is simply not allowed on Health and Safety grounds. Students who come to school with any type of piercing /studs will be expected to remove these immediately. If they refuse or are unable to do this, we will contact you and either send them home or withdraw them from lessons until they comply. Similarly, please be aware that tattoos are also not allowed.**

## **Social networking**

During the course of this year, and particularly in recent weeks, the negative effects of web sites such as Facebook have been very keenly felt in school, often resulting in very difficult and time-consuming issues. This is a matter which gives considerable cause for concern for a number of reasons:

- it has clearly been a means of various forms of cyber bullying;
- it has fuelled disputes and conflicts which have been brought into school, resulting in physical aggression in some cases, as well as parents becoming involved in ways that are not constructive;
- it has revealed that some students are not exercising appropriate caution and consequently putting themselves at risk;
- it often involves the use of foul and abusive language, as well as explicit sexual comments, which lead some students to regard this as the norm.

We understand the difficulties which parents face in monitoring the use of Facebook and other web sites at home. However, I would ask you to be vigilant and to ensure that your son / daughter uses this opportunity for social networking responsibly and safely. Any extreme cases of misuse which come to our attention will be reported to the Safer Neighbourhood Team and / or the police. In addition, we would like to draw your attention to the new, free application in Facebook designed to keep young people safe whilst networking online: **ClickCEOP** links the user directly to help, advice and reporting facilities of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre - the police agency set up to tackle child abuse. By adding the "app" young people can get support on a range of issues, e.g. viruses, hacking, and can report someone who is acting inappropriately towards them online. Further details can be found at: [www.facebook.com/clickCEOP](http://www.facebook.com/clickCEOP).

The school's website includes useful information and guidance for parents on e-safety under the section: Parent Page – Letters and Information.

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## Attendance

We continue our drive to improve student attendance and I am pleased to report that the strategies which we have used this year have had a positive impact. One of the ways in which parents can support us is by not taking family holidays during term time. In the current economic climate, the temptation is obvious, but the negative impact upon your child's learning and progress is a much higher cost to pay.

**The arrangements for the new school year are as follow:**

**All students will return to school on Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, and must report to their form room by 8.30 a.m. New Year 7 students should go to South Hall at 8.30 a.m.**

## Important Autumn Term dates/events

<b>Autumn Term 2010</b>	
Wednesday 1 September	Training Day (Students not in school)
Thursday 2 September	<b>School re-opens for students</b>
Tuesday 21 September	ACE Day (changes to normal lessons)
Thursday 23 September	Year 7 Parents Forum
Friday 1 October	School Photographs
Thursday 14 October	Year 11 Parents Forum
Thursday 21 October	<b>School closes for Autumn half term</b>
Friday 22 October	Training Day (Students not in school)
<b>Monday 1 November</b>	
Monday 1 November	<b>School Re-opens</b>
Thursday 4 November	Year 9 Parents Evening
Monday 8 November	ACE Day (changes to normal lessons)
Thursday 18 November	Year 12 and Year 13 Parents Evening
Friday 17 December	<b>School Closes for Christmas</b>
<b>Spring Term 2011</b>	
Tuesday 4 January	Training Day (Students not in school)
Wednesday 5 January	<b>School re-opens for students</b>

Finally, I would like to thank you for the support and the constructive feedback which I have received from so many of you this year. This is a transitional period for the school in a number of ways, but the relentless focus upon high standards and building on the school's existing strengths will remain the same.

Yours sincerely

Andy Cope  
Headteacher

