

*'a school to be proud of'*

10<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to welcome you to the start of the academic year as the newly appointed Principal. Many of you will know that I have worked in the school for the last 8 years as Deputy Headteacher and I am looking forward to serving the school in my new role. I am committed to developing Ashton's place as a school lying at the very heart of the local community and to raising standards by inspiring learners. I hope I can count on your support as I lead the school into the next phase of its development, as an 11-18 community school based on one campus. The future that lies ahead of us is exciting as we explore new ways to develop an even more vibrant learning environment that enthalls our students and inspires them to further learning.

We have once again seen students returning looking very smart in full school uniform. Thank you for the part you have played in ensuring this. I would like to remind you that students are not allowed to wear facial piercings, make up or jewellery, except for one plain stud in each ear. Extreme hair styles and unnatural colours are also not permitted. May I also take this opportunity of reminding you that students are not allowed off-site at all during the school day unless permission has been given by school, which of course includes lunchtime.

On behalf of the staff and Governors I would like to offer our congratulations to all our students from years 11 and 13 who have recently left school; we wish them every success in their future. Particular congratulations go to our year 13 students who passed their courses with flying colours and have now embarked on courses of higher education at university or secured employment. They have made history since they are our first cohort of Post 16 students to complete level 3 study since the opening of the Post 16 Centre in 2011. The results of all our students are testimony to the hard work of the students themselves, the staff and you the parents, who together have put an incredible amount of hard work and effort into the results that were achieved. We are determined for this to continue further this year.

As you may know, we took the decision to withdraw from the Ribbleton Campus with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August. Consequently a great deal of work has been undertaken on the Ashton Campus to make sure our learning environment accommodates the vocational provision previously offered on the Ribbleton Campus and remains of the highest standard. We now boast a Post 16 Creative Media Suite, an upgraded drama room with facilities to record performances using a green screen backdrop and Mac editing and a newly created Level 1 hair and beauty salon to name but a few. I do hope you will take advantage of the opportunities we offer to see the facilities when we have our two Open evenings later in the year.

We are only five weeks away from our annual school Open Evening, which is one of the most important dates in our School's calendar, for the success of the evening can affect the number of children who choose to join us next September.

In previous years, we have closed early to allow staff and students who are involved to get things ready during the afternoon. Therefore, I intend to close the School at 1.00 p.m. on Thursday 10th October



Full lunch provision will be available for all students as we will amend the timing of lessons to incorporate an early lunch. May I also remind you that the following day is a school INSET day and therefore students will not be in school on Friday 11th October.

We welcome to our school a number of new teaching staff this term;

- Mrs Hordern joins the H&SC team
- Mr Huntbatch joins ICT
- Mr Morgan joins Maths
- Mr Mohamed joins English
- Miss Patel joins Science
- Miss Saunderson joins RE
- Mr Waring rejoins PE

Finally, as you are aware there are many occasions in school when students have their photograph taken or images captured by video. Such material is sometimes used by the school for publicity reasons. As in previous years therefore may I ask that if you would prefer for your child not to have their pictures taken by whatever medium, or not to be used in any publicity material, please complete the reply slip attached to this letter so that our records are accurate. This is repeated annually. Also within school students have access to a confidential counselling service which can be accessed on a self-referral basis. If you would prefer your child not to have the opportunity to self-refer, please could you return the reply slip attached.

Thank you again for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you in person at one of our many school events, the first of which takes place on 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 6.00 p.m. in the school's Business and Conference Centre with the Parent/Teacher Association AGM to which all parents/carers are cordially invited. We extend a very warm welcome to the parents and carers of our new students and hope that you will enjoy participating in school events.

Yours sincerely



Miss Sharon Asquith  
Principal

**REPLY SLIP**

Return to: Mrs Craine, Attendance and Publicity Officer

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Form: \_\_\_\_\_

I **do not** wish my son/daughter to have their pictures taken by whatever medium and used for publicity.

Signature of Parent/ Carer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

∇ \_\_\_\_\_

**REPLY SLIP**

Return to: Miss Parkinson, Student Services

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Form: \_\_\_\_\_

I **do not** wish my son/daughter to self-refer to the Counselling service

Signature of Parent/ Carer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

∇ \_\_\_\_\_

**REPLY SLIP**

Return to: Mrs Craine, Attendance and Publicity Officer

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Form: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Carer: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in becoming involved with the School's PTA.

Signature of Parent/ Carer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_