

Our Ref: ACH/JGE

19<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Dear Families

It's hard to believe we are rapidly approaching the end of term. This letter aims to highlight the main school achievements for the year, explain the end of term arrangements and plans for the return to school in September.

Since I arrived in September, I have been very proud of the hard work and commitment of our children and staff. Relationships within the school and support from yourselves are exemplary. We are fortunate to have such a diverse and culturally rich community that fosters mutual respect and understanding.

The Ofsted report (April) recognises that the school is a harmonious community that is placing educational challenge at the centre of it's philosophy. I hope you have had time to read and digest the report (if not, you can access it via our website at [www.georgedixonschool.com](http://www.georgedixonschool.com)).

### **Key Headlines**

- Student attainment is improving.
- Students are safe and enjoying school.
- The community works together to improve.

I believe that the school is now well positioned to move forward again, and do even better when they return.

Ofsted is only a thermometer measure in the education of your child. What is more important is what happens day to day. This summer we are anticipating the highest ever results at George Dixon International School for 'A'\* to 'C' including English and Maths. In addition, many of the current Year 10 students have been entered early for English, Maths and Science. Success breeds success and we are keen to ensure your child reaches their full potential.

This year the school has also been re-designated as a Maths and Computing College. This means that we are nationally recognized as a centre of excellence for Maths and ICT, something, we are all thrilled about.

Regrettably school for students will now close on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July**. A staggered release will happen between 11.45am and 12.30pm. Please accept my sincere apologies for the late notice of this change to the school calendar. The change has been forced upon me by the preparations for the Building Schools for the Future programme. Many subjects are moving around between the sites. There are many crates in corridors and access does not now meet with fire regulations. After consultation with the Chair of Governors and the BSF representatives they agreed with my decision to close the school early.

**However**, Awards Evening scheduled for Wednesday 21st July will still take place in Martin Block hall at 7.00pm.

Once again my sincere apologies for the late notice but I hope you understand my position and my intentions to ensure that our children are safe in the school.

With the inception of a new school day in September, we are going to stagger the return to school for all children. As you know we are moving from 3 x 100 minute lessons to 5 x 60 minute lessons. School will start at **8.40am and finish at 3.00pm**.

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September** will be a training day for staff. The school will be closed to all students.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**. Year 7, 11 and 12 to report to school as normal at 8.40am. A full day's induction to the new school day and lessons will take place.


**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**: Year 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 to report to school as normal at 8.40am. A full day's induction to the new school day and lessons will take place.

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September** School is normal for all year groups.

This year has flown past but as a community we have much to be proud of. What is special about the school and it's community is it's desire to work together and enrich the lives of the children.

I wish you all a happy and safe summer vacation and look forward to working with you in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely



Anthony Hamilton  
Acting Headteacher