

The term has started well and we have been very pleased with the way that the pupils have settled into the routines of the new school year. In particular we have been impressed with the way our new Year 7 pupils are quickly becoming part of the school community. I would like to take this early opportunity to bring you all up to date on a number of issues.

### **New Dining Hall**

Although we have every confidence in our contractors and the work so far completed, we have been informed that unforeseen circumstances have caused a slight delay. The completion date is now expected to be October 18<sup>th</sup>, in the week before the half-term break. The interim arrangements currently in place will therefore continue until the end of this half-term with the new facility open for pupils after the break. The fine weather so far this term has contributed to our successful management of the lunch period and I would like to thank all parents and carers who have taken the option of providing pupils with a packed lunch during the first part of the term. A range of hot and cold food continues to be made available daily by our canteen staff and our main hall is coping well so far as a relief dining area.

### **Uniform**

Again we have been pleased with the standard of uniform worn by pupils from the start of the new term. The summer Millthorpeian restated our expectations regarding the length of skirts and the unacceptability of multiple layered skirts which some pupils were wearing at the end of last term. All pupils should have a school sweatshirt which will become essential as the autumn develops and temperatures drop. Pupils and parents are reminded that extreme hairstyles are not permitted. If you have any concerns or require further clarification please arrange, in advance, to speak with school staff.

### **Valuable Items**

Pupils are discouraged from bringing valuable items to school. If there is a need to bring a high value item to school then it should be handed in at the main office at the start of the day for safe keeping. A school 'Pay Phone' is available for pupils throughout the day. Any pupil found using a mobile phone during the school day can expect to have it confiscated and in such cases it will be returned to a parent on visiting the school. Our aim is to ensure that pupils' learning is not interrupted by the distractions of mobile communication. It is also timely to point out that no pupils should be taking video or still photographic images on the school site without the permission of a member of staff. On no account should any images of pupils or staff be posted on the internet without the permission of the school. Such rules are intended to protect all members of our school community.

### **International School Award**

The new term started with the excellent news that Millthorpe School has been awarded International School status reflecting the wide variety of international links within and beyond the curriculum. The School will now look to develop these links over the three year initial award period.

### **Fundraising 2007- 8**

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Year 7 and 8 Sponsored Walk at the end of last term. Funds from this and other recent fundraising will be targeted this year on improving school locker provision and up grading our Minibus.

## **Tesco Sport for Schools Vouchers**

The School is again taking part in the Tesco Sport for Schools and Clubs scheme. The scheme is now underway and runs until November 4<sup>th</sup>. You can help us by collecting Sport for Schools vouchers and passing them on to school via your son or daughter.

## **New School Behaviour Policy**

We have started the new school year with a revised Behaviour Policy which makes explicit the expectations we have of all the pupils at Millthorpe School. Pupils have been reminded, through assemblies at the start of term, of our Code of Conduct and how it affects them both around the school and in the classroom. Our expectations reflect the School's values and I have included a statement of these values below.

Millthorpe aims to provide a happy and lively community, fostering courtesy and cooperation, in which all students receive an education of the highest quality.

At Millthorpe staff and students work together to create a community in which we:

- treat each other with fairness, patience and respect
- value each others differences and talents
- celebrate positive attitudes to learning
- expect to work with enthusiasm
- expect to work to the best of our ability
- recognise both effort and achievement
- take responsibility for our behaviour
- accept the responsibility of teachers to maintain an orderly and disciplined environment
- take pride in the people, buildings and reputation of our school

We look forward to a successful term and I thank you for your continued support.