

8 September 2011



Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to be able to write this first letter as Headteacher of Downend School. The students and staff have made me very welcome and I feel very privileged to be part of the school community.

Uniform

Thank you to the large majority of parents who have ensured their children are wearing the correct school uniform at the start of the academic year. I have spoken to students about the importance of wearing the full uniform every day, including their blue logo sweatshirt.

As the weather becomes more variable, many students will want to wear an outdoor coat to and from school but please can I emphasise that this should be an outdoor coat rather than a non-school sweatshirt, hooded top or cardigan! I have asked Year Team leaders to contact parents of students who are not wearing the correct uniform.

“Supervision”

The learning that takes place in the classroom is of course the most important thing that happens in school and we want to make sure that every child makes the best possible progress in every lesson.

From Monday 12 September we will be introducing a ‘Supervision’ procedure. Any student who is disrupting the learning of others will have to leave the class and spend the rest of the lesson in the ‘Supervision’ room. They will receive an automatic one hour detention after school as a consequence, which parents/carers will be notified of by letter.

I am sure that the vast majority of Downend students will never be sent to ‘Supervision’ but I thought it was important to let all parents/ carers know of this new system.

Open Evening

This will take place on Thursday 22 September from 5.45-8.00pm and is a very important date in the school calendar. We are asking as many students as possible to help us on the evening. Students helping will need to have returned a signed permission slip which will be issued next week. No other students should be on site during the open evening.

To enable students and staff to prepare for the open evening, school will finish at 1.25pm for Years 7-11 inclusive. Lunch will be available at 1.25pm for any students who wish to stay for lunch.

Yours sincerely

W Roberts

Mr W Roberts
Headteacher