



Message from the Head

Dear Parent/Carer/Governor/Supporter of Heating School

Welcome to the first edition of Hotline for the Summer Term. As you read on, you will note that this edition summarises the news of several improvements we are implementing from September. These are:

A) Changes to the Curriculum structure to raise academic standards even further:

- i) Key Stage 3 (pupils in Years 7 & 8) is reduced to two years
- ii) Key Stage 4 (pupils in Years 9, 10 & 11) is extended to three years, facilitating an extra year of studying for GCSE or BTEC examinations. (National SAT examinations will still be taken in Year 9, however)

B) Changes to the Guidance Structure to enhance pupils' personal development and well-being. The Guidance Structure will be re-configured to match the Curriculum Structure as follows:

Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4	
Learning Director (still to be appointed, Assistant Head)	Learning Director (Mr Knapton, Assistant Head)	
Learning Co-Ordinator (Mr Molloy)	Learning Co-Ordinator (Mrs Ranyard)	Learning Co-Ordinator (Mr Twinning)
12 form groups	9 form groups	9 form groups
Mixed forms of Years 7 & 8 only	Mixed forms of Years 9, 10 & 11	

Pupils will be in mixed forms to enable the older pupils to act as "buddies or role models" for the younger pupils.

These mixed age groupings will be for registration and tutor period only. In all other classes, pupils will still be taught in ability sets or bands, with peers of the same age.

C) Change to the School Uniform - to improve standards of dress and to respond to a request from the pupil council:

Blazers will become a compulsory item of uniform but will be phased in, in two stages (see detailed explanation overleaf on from Mr Foley, Assistant Headteacher)

D) Change to the School Journal - to improve pupil organisation and at the request of the pupil council:

A new journal will be issued to all pupils in September. KS3 and KS4 pupils will have bespoke journals to match their different requirements of each key stage. Pupils who misuse or lose this important item will have to purchase a replacement at a cost of £2.

In conclusion, the above changes have been carefully researched and representatives from our Pupil, Parent and Governing Bodies have been fully consulted.

We know we are fortunate to have such a supportive parent body - this has been integral to our success. May I ask that you give these changes your whole hearted support because working together, I know we can improve the quality of our provision, even further.

If you wish to discuss any of the above changes in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate Senior Staff member as follows:

- Curriculum** - Mr Biglands, Deputy Head
- Guidance** - Mr Cropp, Assistant Head
- Uniform** - Mr Foley, Assistant Head
- Journals** - Miss O'Hare, Deputy Head

AN IMPORTANT CHANGE TO SCHOOL UNIFORM

Thanks to the support of parents, for many years Healing pupils have been amongst the smartest in the area when representing their school in competitions. Pupils serving on the School Council feel that our pupils are no longer the best “turned out”. Almost half of all local schools now have a blazer as a compulsory part of their school uniform. Aware of this, representatives of the School Council approached Mrs Addison earlier in the year and asked her to consider introducing a plain, black blazer as part of the uniform at Healing. In response to this a process of consultation was begun, prior to this issue being discussed at a meeting of the Full Governing body. At the two most recent Parents’ Evenings over one hundred parents were asked for their views on blazers. A large majority were in favour. With this in mind, and taking into consideration the reservations expressed by a minority of parents, the Governors decided that blazers should be introduced in two phases, as follows:-

Phase 1 – from September 2008

- Year 11 will see no change to the existing uniform arrangements
- Years 8 to 10 pupils must wear **either** an existing official school jumper (with the Healing “tree” logo) **or** a blazer. This is so that parents who have already bought school jumpers do not feel that money has been wasted. However, if jumpers are in need of replacement, we would ask parents to buy the blazer instead
- Year 7 pupils and all pupils new to the school **must** wear a blazer.

Phase 2 – from September 2009

All pupils must wear a blazer throughout the school day, as outlined in the rules below.

Rules

The wearing of blazers will be strictly enforced, but common sense will prevail.

Pupils will be expected to wear a blazer on the journey to and from school and while walking between lessons. They will not be expected to wear the blazer when :-

- Playing sport at break or lunchtime
- Given permission to remove it by a teacher (for example in hot weather or if pupils are carrying out a practical activity).

Cost

The blazer will be plain black, with a sew-on school badge (see competition below). Machine washable and

crease-resistant blazers can be obtained from a wide range on local and “on-line” suppliers and typically cost between £12 and £24. The cost of the badge will be between £2 and £4 and they will be available from the School Office. The Governors acknowledge that, where parents have several children in the school, the introduction of blazers may cause some initial financial difficulty. If you feel that this is the case, please contact Mr Foley at the school, as funds have been set aside for this purpose.

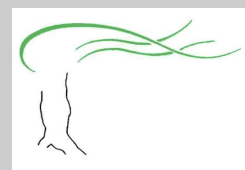
Please note: Fitted, black, fashion jackets will NOT be allowed.

As the school looks forward to re-designation as a Specialist Science College, we hope that you will support the Governors in their efforts to set the highest standards for our pupils.

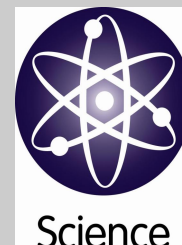
ATTENTION ALL PUPILS - BADGE COMPETITION

To coincide with the introduction of blazers we are holding a competition for pupils to design the new “sew-on” badge. The design must include some or all of the following:-

- The Healing “tree” logo



- The “atom” symbol that reflects our status as a Specialist Science College



The word Healing or the words Healing School SSC or the initials HSSSC (Healing School - a Specialist Science College)

No more than four colours must be used and the background colour must be black or white.

The winning design will be decided by a panel of judges made up from the School Council and Governing body. The Governors have kindly offered a £50 prize for the winning design. All entries must be handed in to Mr Foley by the end of school on Friday 23/05/08.

Full sport reports available on the school website—www.healingssc.co.uk



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