18th July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to remind you that school will close for Summer at 12.55 pm this Thursday.

School resumes on Monday 4th September with a prompt 8.40 am start and I would respectfully remind you that all students should attend in full school uniform, with no extreme haircuts, make up or facial piercings. The school uniform list is available to view on the website or a paper copy can be requested should you require clarification of uniform requirements. The new style pleated skirt is now available to purchase from our suppliers, along with the new school jumpers featuring the House names. These will be phased in over the coming year and we would ask that you purchase the new style skirts and jumpers as you replace those items of uniform.

As is the often the case we have a number of staff changes. We say goodbye to a number of staff this term:

Mr Clare - History

Mrs Taylor – Maths

Mrs Singleton – Art

Miss Scott - Geography

Mr Evans - Maths

Mrs Ashworth – French

Mrs Leadbetter – Computing

Miss Howard – English

Miss Boyce - English

Miss Golding - PE

Mrs Gaitens – Finance

I would like to take this opportunity to thank these colleagues for their service to the school, and wish them every success as they move onto their next post or opportunity. They have worked hard to challenge and inspire both within and beyond the classroom, and I know their work has had an impact on the students they have been involved with.

It is said that as one door closes, another door opens, and in the spirit of that we welcome the following staff in the new academic year:

Mr Llevo - English

Mr Glover – Maths

Mr Pugh – In charge of History

Mr Phillips – History

Mr Young – Geography

Miss Wells – In charge of French

Miss Hayes – Science

Miss Grove – Cover/Girls’s PE

Mr Patel – Finance

Mr O’Rourke - Caretaker

I am sure they will quickly take up their place within their new Ashton family and wish them every success in their new career with us.

There is one final piece of news I wish to share with you and that is to inform you that after 36 years of service to Ashton, Mr Mathers has made the decision to retire. He will leave us at the end of the academic year and we wish him well. His loyalty, his commitment and his dedication to the school and the community it serves have been exemplary; he is the beating heart of the school and our very own “Mr Ashton”. An unshakeable belief in the school, its staff, its children and their parents is a small part of the legacy he leaves us. He attended Buckingham Palace in May of this year, commanded to attend by HM Queen Elizabeth, who wished to recognise his service to the school and the LEP will run a story this week to try and capture the highlights of his career. We will miss him, of that there is no doubt, but he goes with our fondest wishes. It has been a privilege to work with him.

I would like to thank you for the support you have given to school this year and wish you all an enjoyable Summer break.

Yours sincerely

**Miss S Asquith**

**Principal**