**HT Update March 2017**

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of term, I would like to provide you with information on a range of important areas.

Our pupils in the Senior Phase are in the midst of final preparations for their SQA examinations. We are offering as much support as possible in class and outwith through revision classes and extending the Library opening hours. Both supports have been well received and used by our pupils. SQA examination timetables will be issued in the last week of term. We will also go over arrangements again during the first week of the new term. This is just to ensure all our pupils are aware of arrangements and the strict SQA invigilation requirements.

On the Library front, we hope to refurbish this completely during the summer holidays and continue to have this as a resource open to pupils throughout the day and after school. The aim being to increase the IT available for pupil use and have a well-resourced study area. For example, we have invested in additional texts for our Advanced Higher courses within the Library. We are sourcing funding from FPs (Former Pupils), businesses and fundraising to achieve our aim of a first-class learning resource for our young people.

We ran for the first time a Senior Phase pathways event involving pupils and parents. This was designed to support the course choice process by giving you the opportunity to speak with teachers, employers, further and higher education providers. The feedback to date has been very positive. Throughout this year we have tried to increase communication with parents through our “Planning for Success” events and workshops and by providing two reports rather than one annual report.

This term our pupils and staff agreed our new Vision and Values statement, this is

***Vision: Working together, learning together, achieving together***

***Values: Ambition (A) Growth (G) Success (S)***

Pupils and staff have also been working on a new behaviour policy and procedures and this fits with our aspirational Vision and Values. The work ethic in our school is strong and our pupils behave well. In excellent schools, poor behaviour, including low-level disruption is challenged and dealt with. Our pupils are ambitious and want to achieve, it is important that the learning environment in every classroom supports this. In the new term a parental leaflet explaining the new procedures will be posted on our website. Paper copies will be available from the school office. We will start using the new procedures from the start of the new timetable, 22 May.

Similarly, our House Councils produced an Anti-Bullying poster now on display in all classrooms. This summarises our new Anti-Bullying policy and procedures. Parents have asked for advice on how to deal with bullying behaviour through social media. In the new term, a parental leaflet containing advice on this will be on the website.

After the holidays, our Junior Phase pupils have a lot to look forward to, including Activities Week and Work Experience. We will also be welcoming our new Primary 7s for Link Week where they will experience a Secondary school timetable. Preparations for Prize Giving are already underway. Unfortunately, the Music Hall is closed for refurbishment, we have tried a number of other venues but they are all too small. Therefore, Prize Giving will take place in school and more information will follow in due course.

Next term, we draft our School Improvement Plan (SIP). This is based on an audit of the work we are currently doing. From this we identify our priorities and detail these in the SIP. Part of this audit includes pupil, parent and staff questionnaires. These will be issued and the results collated to help us identify priorities and plan future provision. I know we are all inundated with surveys but your support in completing the AGS Parental Survey really will support our work.

Ms Murison

Head Teacher