



Ounsdale High School

Specialist Arts College and Sixth Form

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making excellent
progress'**

15 September 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to a new year at Ounsdale High School and a particular welcome to the parents of new students in Year 7 and in the Sixth Form. We have had a very positive start to the term and I would like to thank you for your support with uniform and equipment.

We are in the process of completing our detailed analysis of this summer's A level and GCSE examination results and will be using this to determine how we can continue to raise standards further. Headline figures include a 98% pass rate at 'A' level with 36% of students achieving A or B grades which we were delighted with and 69% of students gaining 5+A*-C at GCSE. We had some excellent individual results at both GCSE and A level and James Bower gained a place at Cambridge University.

During the summer we have undertaken a programme of work to continue to improve the learning environment for our students and have also welcomed 8 new members of staff in English, Science, Inclusion, ICT, Mathematics and History. We are looking forward to another exciting, challenging and successful year and further details about our improvement plans and progress will be shared with you later this term.

Next week you will receive our September mailing which will ask you to supply and check key information about your child such as contact and medical details. Please return this as soon as possible. One of our most successful developments last year was the introduction of a text and emailing service for parents and I would be grateful if you could check that we have your email address and mobile phone number so that you can benefit from this service. We are continuing to update our website to enable you to find out more about life at the school. It was clear from the parental survey that we completed last year that some parents were not fully aware of the school's plans and progress and so improving communication has been set as one of our priorities for this year.

We hope that you will be able to support your child at parents' evenings, family learning sessions, performances and information meetings so that we can work together to ensure and celebrate their success. Full details of the events and activities will be shown in the school calendar. A paper copy will be included in the September mailing and the web-site version will include any additions or amendments during the year. On the reverse of this letter we have included some key dates for activities this term. As you will see, next week we have our first Family Learning sessions of the year (Year 7 students and parents) and the school will be closed to students on Thursday as we have a staff training day. Our training programme for this day will include performance management reviews and the setting of improvement priorities for staff and work on using student performance data to track and improve individual student progress.

We also hope that you will encourage your child to take part in the extra curricular activities that are available at school including Buzz Club for Key Stage 3 students and opportunities in Sports, Music, Art, Dance and Drama. Further details about these will be given to students over the next few weeks.

We look forward to seeing you and working with you and your child this year and we welcome your comments and feedback about any aspect of the school's work. Please contact us by letter, by telephone or by email office@ounsdale.staffs.sch.uk or headteacher@ounsdale.staffs.sch.uk. As always, if you have a particular concern about your child's welfare or progress please speak to their Head of Year in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Christine Brown
Headteacher