

Dear Reader

WELCOME

Welcome back to a new school year and a particular welcome to those families who joined us for the first time last week; I trust that you are settling well and happily into the Archbishop Blanch School community.

It is also my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the following members of staff who have joined the school:

Mrs N Eyres - Head of Chemistry, **Miss C Gillies** - English Department, **Mrs L Lea** - Peri Music Teacher, **Miss A McCormick** - Mathematics Department, **Miss S O'Connor** - Cover Supervisor, **Mrs S Sargent** - Geography Department, **Mrs M Smith** - Catering Assistant, **Dr P Wainwright** - Assistant Headteacher (Teaching and Learning), **Mrs J Weston** - SEN Teaching Assistant, **Mrs E Williams** - Science Department, **Mr C Wilson** - Lab Technician and **Mrs L Zilinski** - Sociology Department.

This newsletter is produced fortnightly on a Friday. We have found that this is a great way of keeping parents and guardians in touch with what is going on in school. Please remind your daughter or son to pass the newsletter to you every fortnight. As we attach a high priority to communicating with parents, this newsletter is available by e-mail: if you would like to take advantage of this facility please contact Mrs Bryan in the office at bryanl@blanch.org.uk.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

The Examination Results days in August were as exciting and emotional as ever. Celebrating the successful culmination of years of hard work with the pupils is one of the highlights of my year and this year was no exception! There were many excellent results at both AS and A2 level and we are delighted that most of our Year 13 students secured places on courses at their chosen universities. We wish both them and those students who are entering the world of work every success.

The GCSE results were very good, with 82% of our Year 11 pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades C or above - our best results to date. This is also significantly above the national average and the rapidly improving Liverpool average. We are delighted that the

vast majority of our pupils have chosen to join our Sixth Form. Many of our Year 10 pupils received excellent GCSE results in Religious Studies, Science and Design Technology. Many thanks to the staff for their hard work and to the parents for their support; without you, and the hard work of all our pupils, such fantastic results would be impossible.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARENTS

The Police have asked me to mention their concern regarding the way in which parents drop off and collect their daughters outside school at the beginning and end of the day. The health and safety of all our pupils is of paramount concern and school has been somewhat dismayed to witness the way in which parents have been illegally parking outside school. In addition, parents are reminded that the main car park is for staff and visitors only. I would be grateful if pupils could be dropped off slightly away from the school site to avoid traffic congestion around the entrance.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Parents will shortly receive a revised copy of our School Attendance Policy, which will be sent home via pupils. It is most important that the reply slip is completed and returned to school as soon as possible to confirm that you have received and read the Policy.

As most parents will know, we place great importance on good attendance at Archbishop Blanch School and we have been concerned of late about the growing number of families who have chosen to take holidays during term time. Regulations concerning this are clearly detailed in the Attendance Policy and I request that parents take a careful note of them.

Congratulations to our current Year 8 who achieved the highest attendance during the month of July, with 96% and to 8NC who were the top form with 98% attendance. Well done, Year 8!

IMMUNISATION

As I am sure you are aware a new vaccine is available nationally to all 12 and 13 year old girls; this offers a large degree of protection against the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) which can lead to cervical cancer. We will be issuing a letter and consent form for all Year 8, 10 and 11 pupils within the next two weeks, as well as an invitation for parents to attend an Information Evening on **Monday, 28th September**.

UNIFORM

We are proud of our pupils' positive approach to school but feel it is important to reinforce our School Rules regarding uniform and appearance. You will be receiving, via your daughter, a letter which outlines these regulations. We would be grateful if you could sign in the appropriate space in your daughter's Planner to acknowledge receipt of this letter.

HOMEWORK CLUB

We would like to inform new parents and remind existing parents that school operates a Homework Club, which is available at the following times:

Year 7	Monday lunchtime
Year 8	Tuesday lunchtime
All Years	Mon-Thurs 3.30-4.30 pm

The sessions, which are supervised by Miss Ellie Jones, will begin on Monday, 14 September. Miss Jones caters for all subjects, specialising in French to GCSE level. There are musical keyboards available for students to practise what they have learned in Music as well as all manner of stationery for various projects in all subjects. Please encourage your daughter to make good use of this resource.

SPONSORED SWIM

A sponsored swim in aid of the British Heart Foundation and Archbishop Blanch School will take place on Thursday, 24 September 2009 at the University of Liverpool Swimming Pool, Abercromby Square, between 5.00 - 7.30 p.m. Years 7-11 have all been issued with letters. If anyone from Years 12 and 13 would like to take part, sponsorship forms are available from the school office.

CATERING UPDATE

The Meal Deal on offer each day includes a main course and dessert and represents very good value for money. A small increase has been made to £1.75, which will take effect from Monday, 21 September 2009. The allocation for free school meals has been increased to £1.75 per day.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE OF DATES TO PA EVENTS:

PA MEETING: The first meeting of the Parents' Association took place on 7 September and therefore there will be no meeting on 14 September as listed in the School Calendar.

PA DISCO: The next disco will be held on **Thursday, 15 October** and not 24 September as advertised in the Calendar.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM: Advance notice that the PA will be holding their AGM on Monday, 5 October at 7.00 pm in school. All parents are invited to attend and to vote for their Committee. The posts of Chair and Secretary are both vacant.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Mrs Jones, our Librarian, has set up a Scholastic Book Club school group order online. This means that parents can now order all the books in your Book Club's Leaflet and many more at <http://clubs-school.scholastic.co.uk/archbishop-blanch-ce-high> and, you will be able to have your books delivered to school for FREE! If you prefer you can still continue to order books by sending cash/cheque to school with your order in an envelope, with your child's name and form clearly marked. Orders are to be in by Friday, 25 September. Books will be delivered to school and handed out in the Library at break or lunchtimes. For every £1 you spend 20p goes back to school to spend on much-needed books for our Library.

MORRISONS LET'S GROW

The school is again taking part in this campaign. Please start collecting vouchers - 1 voucher for every £10 spent. The campaign runs between 7 September and 1 November.

HERITAGE WEEKEND

All Saints Church in Childwall will be holding a heritage weekend on 19 and 20 September 2009 (Saturday 10.00 - 16.00 and Sunday 12.00 noon till 16.00.) There will be many events including a BBQ on Sunday (5.00-6.00 pm) and an open air songs of praise (Sunday 6.30 pm).