

13<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear Parent,

It's been a little while since I last wrote to you so I thought I would take this opportunity to share with you some exciting news.

Since our first [Parent Forum](#) meeting in July 2016 we have been listening hard to your feedback and working quickly to respond to a number of fantastic ideas and suggestions which are helping us to improve the service we provide to parents and students. Read on to find out more.

### [Facebook Launch: The Lakes School Windermere UK](#)

We are extremely excited to be announcing the launch of our new Facebook Page which is a direct response to requests from members of the Parent Forum who felt that we could do more to communicate with parents, students and the wider community. The Governing Body of The Lakes School are pleased to support this venture and we can't wait to build a page that captures life at The Lakes School.

To find our page, simply click [here](#) or search for 'The Lakes School Windermere UK' from your Facebook account. Simply like the page and wait for the news to arrive in your newsfeed. Here is a screen shot so that you know you are in the right place.



### **Facebook Safety**

I would like to reassure parents that we will only use images of your child on our Facebook page if you have given permission on the photographic consent form you completed at the beginning of the year. Please contact reception if you would like to check or change the nature of the consent you have given.

### [Parental use of Social Media Policy](#)

Our new Facebook page has the potential to really celebrate life at The Lakes School and we look forward to seeing lots of 'likes' and positive comments appearing which will bring the page to life. Due to the public nature of Facebook, we are required to establish a policy for parents

on the use of social media. Please click [here](#) to view this policy on our website. Thank you in advance for helping us to celebrate all that we do at The Lakes School and feel free to get in touch if you have something you would like us to feature on our page.

### Social and Emotional Support

Spring is an exciting time of year at The Lakes School. Students are thinking about their subject options, exams, post 16 education, apprenticeships and university. We know that there are many things that might weigh on your child's mind and we would always encourage you to contact the school to talk about any concerns you may have. Your child's Form Tutor is always a good person to speak to as they see your child every day and build up a strong relationship with them. Our Pastoral Managers, Miss Evans and Mr Taylor, are extremely experienced in supporting students with their social and emotional needs and can often help if your child needs to talk. We know that happy learners are successful learners so do please talk to a member of staff if you feel there is anything we can do to better support your child.

### School Improvement Snapshot

Just time for me to share with you a brief update on some of the improvements we have made during the last 12 months. We are very pleased with the green data which shows that improvements are being made in the areas of behaviour and rewards. However, we set high standards at The Lakes School and intend to secure further improvements as the year progresses.

Our whole school attendance remains low and we are keen to support students and parents to ensure that our attendance hits the school's expectation of 96%. We have recently updated the attendance page of our website to include information on the impact of low attendance on academic progress. You can visit this page by clicking [here](#).

Key Area	February 2016	February 2017	Difference
Total Behaviour Incidents	1843	1737	-106
Incidents of Low Level Disruption	753	662	-91
Attendance Y7-11	93.8%	93.74%	-0.06%
Authorised Absence: Y7-11	5.6%	4.9%	-0.7%
Authorised Absence: Pupil Premium	10.61%	7.93%	-2.68%
Total Merits Awarded	3433	5217	+1784

In closing, I would like to thank you for your continued support. Young people can achieve anything when they are warmly supported by a perfect partnership between their school and their parents. We pride ourselves on working closely with parents and would encourage you to contact school reception if you would like to join the Parent Forum at our next meeting on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 at 6.30 – 8.00p.m. Refreshments available from 6.00p.m.

Enjoy our [Facebook](#) page and we look forward to welcoming you to The Lakes School in the near future.

Kind regards



Andy Cunningham  
Headteacher



Excellence through a caring, learning community