Dear Parents/Guardians,

It seems only yesterday that I was writing the May Newsletter to you all and here we are in the last week of term, getting ready to send all of the Year 7, 8, 9 and 10s off for their 2017 summer break. It has been an incredibly rewarding year and the final few weeks have been the icing on the cake. Last week, many of you joined us in the hall for the Prize Evening for KS3 and KS4, as well as meeting at Hanger Farm for the Summer Showcase. You will join me in celebrating the incredible success and talent of so many of our students. In addition, on Thursday we had a bumper day of visitors, including Cassandra Patten, Olympic Swimmer from 2008, who came to help motivate a number of Year 9s; Sir David Payne who visited our G&T students to discuss the future potential of STEM subjects and laser technology and finally, David Harris from UNICEF, who spent the day with us to evaluate our bid for Rights Respecting School Stage 2 Status. I am allowed to inform you that Testwood School has been successful in this bid and from September 2017, we will be recognised as one of the UNICEF National Award winners. What a week that was!

During this week, we had our Sports Award Evening and those students who have contributed to team sporting events joined us in the hall for an evening of celebration with Aaron Phipps. Aaron was a student at Testwood and fell ill with meningitis while he was in Year 9. Although he suffered the loss of both legs from the illness, since that time he has devoted his adult career in high endeavor, including representing Team GB in the London Paralympics in wheelchair rugby; climbing Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for the Meningitis Research Foundation charity, as well as speaking at schools and colleges to encourage young people to face adversity head on. If you would be interested in finding out more about Aaron and his incredible achievements, his story can be found online. We are delighted that he joined us at this important event.
As part of the Rights Respecting School, our School Council has raised concerns about some aspects of our current toilet facilities. We wanted to let students and parents know that during the summer, the sports hall toilets are being refurbished. Soap and hand towel dispensers are being checked in the other toilets and door locks are being repaired. We are keen to hear their views on the changes after the summer break.

**Message from Mr Webber - Deputy Headteacher**

I started working at Testwood earlier this month and am thrilled to have done so. In my first few weeks, I have focused on getting to know staff and students and the culture of the school. I have been really impressed with the superb attitude of the students and with the fantastic staff. I have taught some History classes, carried out learning walks in lessons and got involved in the planning for next year. I look forward to getting to know students and their families much better in the autumn and to supporting students to make great progress in their learning at Testwood.

**Gilmore’s Garden**

Very recently, a request was sent out asking for volunteers to help us begin the process of restoring Gilmore’s Garden to former glory. A working party of ten parents and five students joined myself and Mr Pitman(!) to clear brambles and debris. Great fun was had by all but …. there’s more to be done! Should you wish to join us during the summer holiday on Saturday 12th August from 9.00am until 11.00am (weather permitting) and also on Saturday 9th September, please bring your gloves, secateurs and water for an intense two hours of hard work! Enormous thanks to all of those who joined us recently.
Calling all interested parents/guardians who would like to join the P.T.A.

Responding to positive suggestions from our dedicated parent population, I feel the time is right to re-establish the Testwood P.T.A. This group will have the opportunity to work with us for the benefit of students to fundraise and learn more about what makes Testwood tick. If you are interested, there will be a meeting on 14th September at 6.00pm – 7.00pm in the LRC. An agenda will be posted on the website as soon as we return. I look forward to seeing you there!

Library Books Reminder

Mrs Campbell, LRC Manager, has asked if you could please check that your sons and daughters haven’t got library books at home, especially those students who are not doing the library’s Summer Reading Challenge. Please ensure that all library books are returned to the LRC by Friday 21st July, ready for the summer stock take. Students in Year 9 and 10 who have library books more than six months overdue will be asked to pay for replacements in September.

Prom

Year 11 students enjoyed their Prom, held at Steeple Court Manor, on 5th July. Just a few modes of transport that were used this year comprised of an army vehicle and a wheelbarrow! Well done Year 11. May I wish you all the very best for the future.

Other Events

Testwood students have been involved in a variety of high profile and educationally beneficial activities during this year. Please take time to look through the Testwood School Review where a number of these events have been covered, including Art, Drama, English, Maths, Science, MFL, PE, Computing and ICT, Geography, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Technology and Sports Week.

Results Day

GCSE results day is Thursday 24th August. Results will be available from school from 10.00am until midday. Year 11 results not collected will be posted and Year 9 and 10 results not collected will be given out in the new term. The Year Book for Year 11 will be available for collection at the same time.
Staff Changes

I would like to reassure parents and guardians that we are fully staffed for September. We wish the following staff all the very best as they leave Testwood. Whether they are retiring, changing school or career or embarking on promotion, we wish them well:

Mr Muller – Teacher of Science, Mr Morrissey – Teacher of English, Miss Patten – Head of RE, Mr Ball – Teacher of Technology, Mrs Taylor - LSA

Staff joining are:

Miss Mabey – Teacher of ICT, Miss Green – Teacher of English, Mr Rossiter – Chef Manager, Mr Maloney - Teacher of Maths (Maternity Cover – Supply), Miss Demuth - Teacher of History (Maternity Cover)

We hope the sun shines brightly for Mr Manning, Teacher of PE, as he will all be ‘tying the knot’ over the summer holidays!

Inset Days are planned on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th September and students return on Wednesday 6th September 2017 at 8.30am for their registration.

Please be aware that the last day of the academic year for Testwood Sports College in 2018 will be Friday 20th July, as staff will have 23rd July as a disaggregated Inset Day. A list of key dates for the first half term are attached.

May I take this opportunity to thank parents, guardians and students for your support of the school during 2016/17. Attendance and punctuality have improved and behaviour reports have reduced. It is an enormous privilege to be working with such a devoted team of staff and wonderful students and I look forward to starting again in September.

I wish you all a restful summer.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J. Pitman

Headteacher
**Key Dates:**

- 4th September – Inset Day
- 5th September – Inset Day
- 6th September – whole school returns at 8.30am
- 14th September – P.T.A. meeting (6.00pm – 7.00pm) in the LRC
- 20th September – Year 8 HPV immunisations
- 24th September – Autumn Fair
- 28th September – Testwood Open Evening 5.30pm – 7.30pm (students finish at 1.00pm)
- 3rd October – Careers Evening 7.00pm – 8.00pm – in the LRC
- 4th October – School Photo Day
- 5th October – Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening – 3.30pm – 5.30pm
- 9th & 10th October – Open mornings
- 18th October – Headteacher’s Celebration Tea (4.00pm – 5.00pm) in LRC
- 20th October – last day of half term

**Inset Days:**

- 4th September 2017
- 5th September 2017
- 24th November 2017
- 19th February 2018
- 16th April 2018
- 23rd July 2018

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<td>Year 11</td>
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