



Hilltop School

An academy within Nexus MAT

Larch Road, Maltby, Rotherham, S66 8AZ

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email:hilltop.special@rotherham.org

Headteacher: David Burdett

www.maltbyhilltop.com www.nexusMAT.org



Monday 3rd July 2017

Dear families, parents and carers

New Uniform – We have been looking at a uniform with our new logo on for September 2017. This is very exciting and we would like to encourage as many parents to purchase a school uniform via Tesco's. We have decided to have a blue t-shirt and sweat shirt for all pupils at Hilltop. If your child regularly accesses Redwood then you can opt for a red t-shirt or sweatshirt. We don't want, or expect our older students in 6th form to wear a uniform. Please be aware there is no requirement to wear a school uniform and we just want to trial it next year and see how it works for us all. If you have any questions contact myself or our school office.

New positions in school – I know I wrote about new staff last time and have even more good news. We have really been trying to secure permanent staff for September and I don't think we have interviewed so many people before! We have appointed 9 permanent Teaching Assistants for September and 3 new Apprentices. We have also appointed a Site Manager who will start by September. We do need to thank Trevor Bailey who has been a temporary caretaker for a year now and has done a really good job.

Summer Fair – We were so lucky with the weather on Saturday and it was a really great day of fun and games. Thanks for all the volunteers and staff who worked so hard to make it such a great success. We raised over £1,300 on the day and we are going to spend it on developing our wild pond area so all of our students can access and use it.

Summer School – The letters to confirm places should come out this week for those of you who want your child to join us in our fun holiday sessions. If you haven't returned the form please do so ASAP. Contact the school office if you need any help. We are being funded by the local authority for some sessions and transport will be provided on some days to support our pupils to attend.

After School Clubs – We have been approached again by the local authority and are planning a number of after school clubs in September. We will let you know more and hope to focus on those students who we find it more difficult to offer sessions and hope to have greater access for all our pupils.

Maltby Volunteer and Carer award – I had the privilege of seeing Vic Harrop being awarded a double award for her contribution to the pupils at school and being such a brilliant carer for her 3 adopted sons with special needs.

Snapchat – We have been informed that Snapchat now has a new upgrade that includes SnapMap which will tell others where you are. You and your child can be tracked using the app. This can put your child at risk if you have it. You need to go into SnapMaps and change settings to 'Ghost Mode'. You are welcome to contact us for more information 1:1 or check our website (see enclosed/attached letter).

Snapchat support – <https://support.snapchat.com/en-US/article/about-snap-map2>.

If you are worried about a child

If the child is in immediate danger contact the police on 999 (in an emergency);

If the child is not in immediate danger then contact Rotherham Children's Social Care Services to report your concerns. Call the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01709 336080;

If the child is not in immediate danger but you believe a crime may have been committed then call the Police on 101.



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Musical.ly & Live.ly– We have been alerted to both of these apps being used to target vulnerable children and encourage them to do inappropriate things. It has a live streaming feature and paedophiles have used this to entice children to do things 'live'. Again look at the settings and put in parental controls.

Fire safety– Our fire procedures have been checked by the Local Authority representative last week and we are confident there is little we need to put into place. We have an updated risk assessment which Janine our School Business Manager has completed to ensure we comply with any risks identified since the tragic incident in London.

Reflections on the year and development for 2017-18 – I am so pleased we have ensured our budget is on track this year and are really looking forward to developing what we offer even further in September. We are planning to focus on a few key areas

1. Staff training – we have a number of new staff and we want to ensure we all are confident and trained in all areas of the curriculum, care, health and develop new skills
2. Maintenance and development of the school buildings and grounds to provide a decent quality building and new places for pupils in the school for the future.
3. Development of ICT with purchase of new laptops, iPads and alternative technology.
4. Extend our out of school activities including clubs, residential and access to the community for all our learners.
5. Pupil expectations in making progress. We still have some learners who are not making expected progress and we want to find ways of sharing your child's progress with you.
6. Pupil attendance still needs to improve! We have to work on attendance and ensure we have at least 90% overall as a school. We will target some pupils who need to improve their attendance. Again, we will try to find ways of supporting good attendance for all.
7. Securing, health and safety for all our students and staff including those with health needs and doing our best to ensure all our learners are safe and happy at school.
8. Developing a post 19 provision for some of our leavers in 2018.

Dates for your diary

July

Upper school disco Tues 4th from 6pm.
S Factor Final at Magna Thursday 13th
Lower school disco Tues 18th July.
Lower school presentation Thurs 20th.
Leavers Prom Thurs 20th.
Upper school presentation Fri 21st.
EYFS and Post 16 closed from Monday 24th July
Proud assembly Fri 28th.
Last day of school Friday 28th July.

David Burdett Headteacher

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