

Our ref: ML/AD/Parent Letter/Jan 2008

January 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your family have enjoyed refreshing and stimulating holidays and that you feel suitably re-charged for the demands of the year ahead. I am writing in order to introduce myself and to share some initial thoughts about the school.

I have come to Crofton after 17 years teaching at schools in Liverpool, Lincolnshire, Peterborough and, most recently, at Brookfield School in Sarisbury Green. My subject is Geography but I have branched out at various times into Maths, History, RE and Drama. I have 2 children of my own: one is in Year 6 at my local village primary school; the other is in Year 8 at a secondary school in Chichester, where I live. I am delighted to be taking over the leadership of Crofton School and have been impatiently anticipating the start of the new term!

It is difficult and risky to condense an opinion about something so vital and complex as education into a paragraph but I hope that you will want to know how the new Headteacher thinks. I am motivated by a sense of the moral seriousness of what schools do; by a conviction that education, while important, should also be fun; by a belief that schools should be inclusive communities in which everyone is equally valued; and by a determination that we should not tolerate underachievement. These are the principles which will guide me as I lead the school during the next phase of its development. My firm intention is that Crofton will become an outstanding school.

I intend to spend time this term finding out about the school and its community. I will be meeting all the staff and governors and as many students as I can so that I can form a representative picture of the school's existing strengths and weaknesses.

I am anxious to include parents in this process. We will be sending a formal questionnaire to parents later on this term which will provide a structured opportunity for comment and suggestion. I would also like to invite you to an additional Information Evening on Thursday 7 February. More details will follow, but I will make a short presentation about my aspirations for the school and invite questions and comments from those parents present.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of some important dates:

**Year 7** Parents' Information Evening – Thursday 10 January  
**Year 8** Science Information Session – Tuesday 22 January  
**Year 7** Science Information Session – Tuesday 29 January  
**Year 11** Parents' Consultation – Thursday 31 January  
**Year 9** Parents' Consultation – Tuesday 5 February  
**Year 9** Upper School Courses Evening – Thursday 14 February

The school will be closed to students on:

Thursday 24 January  
Friday 25 January  
Friday 21 March  
Monday 24 March

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This term presents different challenges for different year groups. Students in Year 7 will have settled in to their new school and need to make sure that they now adopt and consolidate effective ways of working and learning. Year 8 students are sometimes at risk of thinking that Key Stage 3 will last forever and that they can relax a little – their challenge is to avoid complacency and continue to make progress. Year 9 students will be making vital choices about the courses they will follow at Key Stage 4 and preparing for the Key Stage 3 tests. Students in Years 10 and 11 have vital GCSE exams in Maths with the full summer exam season only a few weeks afterwards. Every lesson counts for every student.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you later on in the term and to working in partnership with you for the benefit of your child and of all our students.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Leeming  
Headteacher