



2 April 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

This is our Easter letter, keeping you up to date with news and developments here at Lonsdale and telling you about our plans for the future.

### **Staffing**

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Suzanne Thrower as Deputy Headteacher after a strong competition. Mrs Thrower comes to us from Marriotts School where she is Assistant Headteacher for SEND, Gifted and Talented and personalised learning and will join the Lonsdale Senior Leadership team from September 2015.

She has worked in education in various roles and before this had a flourishing career in the police service where her responsibilities included training police officers. More recently, she has worked as an SEN Consultant for Hertfordshire and is highly regarded by the local authority.

Mrs Sally Taylor, Interim Deputy Headteacher, will continue in her role until the end of this academic year and, will help us to achieve a smooth transition. We would like to thank Mrs Taylor for her dedication and continuing support to our school. It's much appreciated by all of us. As part of the handover, Mrs Thrower will be attending various meetings and events next term.

The school has also successfully appointed three new Learning Support Assistants and two Midday Supervisors. We are pleased to welcome them all to the Lonsdale family. There has been an excellent response to our advertisement for residential staff and we'll be interviewing candidates at the beginning of next term.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Form Leavers' trip**

You may be aware that Lonsdale has traditionally offered its school leavers a trip as part of their last term of educational experience. Unfortunately, not all our students have been able to take part in these trips and so this year we have decided to arrange an Educational Activity Week which is accessible to everyone. All our 6<sup>th</sup> Form students are invited to participate in and enjoy this whole department event. The week will run from first thing on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> June until 3.00pm on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July. During the week our Residential Department will only be available for the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Students and their staff. The students will be based in the Resi and are invited to stay all 4 nights.

We've also decided to establish a new tradition and to celebrate the 6<sup>th</sup> Form students' achievement and transition to adult education by holding a Leavers' Prom. All current 6<sup>th</sup> Form students and their families are invited. There will be more detailed information about the Prom at the beginning of the Summer term, but the date for your diaries is Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

## Achievements

It's been a busy term at Lonsdale and we've been working hard to improve the educational experience of our pupils and to make sure that we strengthen the arrangements for their care and safety. Here's some of the developments that have taken place:

We've looked hard at the way we do our assessment, recording and reporting and have made changes that will ensure our teaching is even more focused and supports each individual to make the best progress in the learning that's possible.

The school teams have been thinking ahead to the next academic year and planning ways to improve our students' access to GCSE and other nationally accredited courses. And we've formed new working partnerships with other schools so that we can learn from each other and share best practice.

Educational visits and cross-curriculum projects continue to enhance our curriculum. They include our very own Young Enterprise Day with visitors from other schools, along with the celebration of World Book Day, a drama workshop about road safety and pupil visits to places around the region.

On the arts front, in partnership with the Herts Music Service, we're offering private music lessons either individually or in pairs with experienced and talented music specialists. And we have plans for developing an arts award – an accredited qualification that combines music, the visual and performing arts. You'll also be pleased to know that three of our P16 students had their poems published in the anthology "War of Words" – a great achievement.

Sporting heroes and national champions have visited Lonsdale to coach and work with our pupils. The students really enjoyed seeing them in the school and got a chance to talk to the visitors about sport and representing their country.

Next term will be a very special term for the 6<sup>th</sup> Form students and our Leavers. The whole school can look forward to a whole school Art Event, Innovation School's National Opening Event, Sports Day and a Final Achievement Assembly with cream tea!

In the meantime we wish you all a Happy Easter and look forward to seeing you soon.



Annemari Ottridge  
Headteacher

Helen Hanbury  
Chair of Governors