



*Parklands*  
HIGH SCHOOL

Parklands High School  
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26<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Dear Parent

I hope you enjoyed a relaxing and restful summer. We celebrated our best ever results at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

In GCSEs 15% of our pupils achieved 5 or more passes at Grade A\*-C including English and Maths. Another 18% just missed out and achieved 5 passes with a C in English or Maths and a 'D' in the other.

43% of Year 11 pupils achieved 5 or more passes at Grade A\*-C in any subjects.

Our attendance has risen sharply and is currently running at 92%.

The year has started well and our young people have returned to school with a determination to succeed.

We will receive our first monitoring visit from Ofsted next Wednesday and Thursday (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October) and I shall report to you on our progress when I receive their report. Obviously this is an important visit for the school and I would ask you to ensure that your child is in full uniform, on time and properly equipped for lessons. I should also be grateful if you would complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to school before next Wednesday. Ofsted are keen to know the views of all our stakeholders.

You will, no doubt, have read the article in last week's Echo painting an uncertain future for the school and I would like to clear up a few points and reassure you all.

Firstly, the council is committed to providing secondary education on the estate, their £25 million investment in this complex is an expression of that commitment.

Secondly, we have been speaking to the Local Authority about taking our ideas around Trust Status forward. You may remember last year we were considering setting one up with Shorefields. This did not happen but the Authority and the Government would support a Trust between ourselves, another school and an organisation like Liverpool University. If this happens the school would 'close' in its current form but 'open' the following day with different arrangements for

governance and an altered leadership structure. THE DISRUPTION TO PUPILS AND THEIR LEARNING WOULD BE MINIMAL if this model was adopted. So please rest assured we will be working flat out to raise standards and attainment for our learners for the foreseeable future.

It is bound to be an exciting year with many challenges but you, our pupils and the staff have proved that challenges only serve to bring the best out of us.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Smithies." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

A Smithies  
Headteacher