



# Stormont House School Matters

Our vision

**Achievement for all in a unique world-class school**

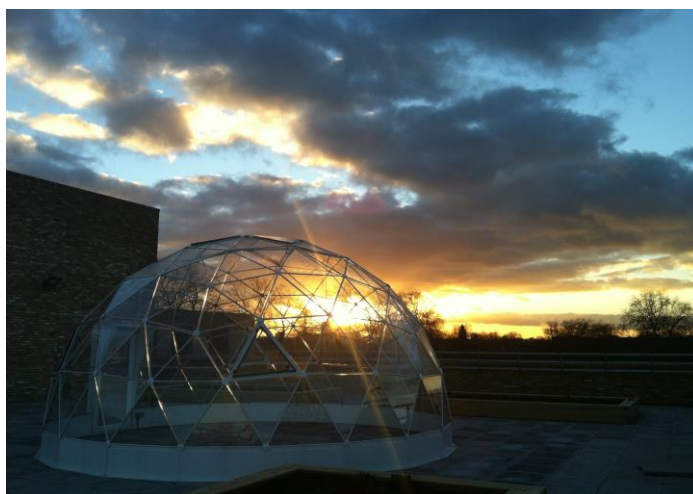
16 January 2014

## Welcome Back! A Message from Kevin McDonnell, Headteacher

Happy New Year and welcome back to everyone! I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas with your family. Thank you for your patience and understanding during our move from Mount Pleasant Lane back to Downs Park Road. Our new building is amazing (even if I say so myself) and the pupils have been delighted! We will shortly invite parents and carers to see the school in action.

Last term ended with two very special events: Many parents attended our Carol Service where Year 11 led the school through the Nativity Story, interspersed with whole-school singing of carols. The final reading by Year 11 students pointed out that the real work of Christmas begins only after all the festivities are over: 'to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry... to make music in the heart'. I thank Year 11 for reminding us of this powerful message, which holds true whether we are of any faith or none.

Our Christmas Dinner for pupils was so much more than that: Year 11 students set out tables with tablecloths, place settings, crackers and table decorations with our Christmas tree in one corner of the hall; the kitchen staff again produced an amazing meal with many traditional (and non-traditional) options; a magician moved from table to table entertaining pupils and guests while they waited their turn to select their meal; a 'surprise' disco had many pupils and staff on their feet while others found respite in quieter entertainment. I was moved, but not surprised, when one of the Williams Lea mentors said to me 'this is one of the highlights of my year, believe me'.



Of course, none of this would be possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of our staff and governors. I thank each and every one of them that makes the school such a warm and positive place for pupils. People outside of school sometimes ask me whether we are 'winding down for Christmas'; I think 'winding up' for Christmas would be a better description as there is just so much going on!

In the new school all the rules are the same, but we need to help pupils apply them in a different setting. I have been very pleased with how well pupils have maintained their school uniform; soon we will discuss with parents and carers what type of PE kit to introduce now that we have our new sports hall, changing rooms and showers. A reminder and clarification about uniform is overleaf.

I hope to see all parents and carers of Year 10 and 11 students on Tuesday 21 January 6-8pm for our annual Careers Evening. The big change this year is the Year 12 Study Programme at Stormont House. For the first time, students will be able to choose a vocational qualification to study at college but still spend the majority of their time here improving their functional skills qualifications in English, Maths and ICT, an extended work experience placement and continuing their Personal & Social Development. We will be able to meet representatives from the colleges and, of course, the form tutors and teachers will be able to update you on your child's progress.

## School Uniform Reminder and Clarification

Dark grey trousers or skirt

Plain white school shirt or plain white polo shirt

Bottle green V-neck jumper with school logo OR Bottle green sweat shirt with school logo

- No other sweatshirts, jumpers or other tops can be worn over the sweatshirt /jumper with the school logo.
- Hooded tops of any description, or tracksuit tops etc. are not permitted except during PE lessons. (PE kit to be introduced later this year after consultation with parents/carers)

Plain black shoes for everyday wear (not trainers)

- Boots - ankle or knee length are NOT allowed
- Shoes may not have other colours apart from on the sole.
- Pupils should wear trainers for PE. These can also be worn if playing football etc. on the playground.

A suitable outdoor coat, preferably of a plain colour, which must be removed when in lessons, assembly or the dining room

- Hooded tops, tracksuit tops etc. do not count as suitable outdoor coats, nor should they be worn in school

A bag to take homework, pencil cases and other equipment to and from school.

### Jewellery and Make-up

The school has a "No Jewellery" policy for pupils. This includes chains, bracelets, rings and large or decorative earrings. The only exception is very small plain studs or hooped earrings.

No make-up or nail varnish is to be worn in school.

**Reminder:** please label **all** of your child's uniform in particular their school jumper/sweatshirt to help identify if found! The school cannot accept any liability for loss of any personal items.

Please telephone the school if you require any further clarification or wish to discuss anything that presents a difficulty.

**School Uniform ring the school to BUY ONE GET ONE FREE while stocks last**  
**SWEATSHIRTS: 15/16; 14/15; 13/14; 12/13; 11/12 and 10/11 VNECKS: 14/15; 13/14; 12/13; 11/12**

### Dates for your Diary 2014

Careers Evening Years 10 & 11

Tuesday 21 January 6-8pm

Half Term

Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February

Year 7 Parent/Carer evening

Tuesday 4 March 3.45 – 6pm

Years 8 & 9 Parent/Carer evening

Tuesday 11 March 3.45 – 6pm

Staff Training afternoon

Friday 21 March (school closes at 1.15pm)

Reward Outings

Thursday 3 April

**End of Term for Pupils**

**Friday 4 April 2014 (school closes at 1.15pm)**

### EASTER Holiday

Staff Training Day

Tuesday 22 April (School closed)

**Pupils return for summer term**

Wednesday 23 April

Bank Holiday

Monday 5 May

Half term

Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May

**End of Term for Pupils**

**Friday 18 July (school closes at 1.15pm)**

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