



8th September 2009

Dear Parent,

Re: Building Work at Chinthurst

I hope that you enjoyed a restful summer. I am delighted to be able to write to you at the start of the new academic year to inform you of the exciting work that has taken place at Chinthurst throughout the past two months. Improvements to many areas of the school site have been undertaken and there has been considerable progress made; although there remain small areas of work to be completed, we are confident that the School looks, and feels, much improved now that the boys have returned. The nature of the work can be summarised as follows:

Sports Hall: The damaged roof has been repaired and renewed, in order to return the Hall to its full length. The floor has been re-surfaced, the lighting enhanced and the area re-painted. New, improved storage areas have been created and new, approved cricket nets (2 bays) fitted. Finally, the Foyer area has been completely refurbished in order to provide a meeting area which could also double as an area for match teas for parents.

Pre-Prep & Nursery: New flooring has been put down in many areas and the downstairs cloakroom re-decorated and re-furnished. Kindergarten has moved upstairs, with Remove and Transition, and 3 new, specific learning areas have been created specifically for Pre-Prep & Nursery: Art Room, Library with interactive whiteboard and a Music and Movement Room.

Music Rooms: The Form One rooms have been converted into Music rooms, the larger a teaching and performing space, the smaller now becoming three large practice rooms. Both these facilities provide us with larger accommodation than was previously offered at Waverton.

Art Room: The Science Lab next to the Changing Rooms has been converted into an Art Room, again offering bigger accommodation to Art than was previously possible at Waverton. All of the boys will continue to enjoy practical Science lessons, though now in the purpose-built Science Lab in Morris House.

Parents' Reception Area: A Reception Room has been created, opposite the School Office, for parents. This room is being formed from part of the Library and will be accessed by the door immediately on the right on entering the front door next to the School Office. The existing oak front door has been altered and the reception area and stairs re-decorated and re-carpeted, together with the formation of two small trophy cabinets built alongside the staircase.

In addition to all this specific work, there have been cosmetic improvements to a number of other areas, to include the French and ICT rooms.

I am delighted with the progress that we have made over the past few months. Pupil numbers have increased by over 7% since Easter and the improvements will ensure that we start the new phase of Chinthurst's development on the right footing. I am indebted to the Bursar, Mrs Lothian, and the Deputy Headmaster, Mr Button, who have worked so hard to co-ordinate the building and refurbishment efforts over the summer months. Many of my colleagues have also assisted, demonstrating their passion for Chinthurst, and I know that they are encouraged by the work completed. Finally, I would like to thank the Governors, in particular Mr Wayne Anderson, for working alongside us and authorising expenditure up to £250 000, all of which is aimed at improving the quality of education that we are able to provide.

In the very best of Chinthurst traditions, I would like to invite all parents to join me, and the staff, for an informal **Meet the Headmaster Evening**, on Thursday 24th September, in the Dining Hall, starting at 7pm.

There will be wine and nibbles available and we will also be conducting guided tours of the School, in order to allow parents to see the changes made during the summer months.

For my part, I remain hugely enthusiastic about the new academic year and the challenges ahead for Chinthurst School. I am steeling myself for the first challenge: that of learning a whole new set of names! This can only begin with meeting people, and I look forward to doing so from the first day of the new academic year. In the meantime, it leaves me to wish you and your son(s) an enjoyable and rewarding start to the Autumn Term.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Thorpe
Headmaster