

LOWER SCHOOL (Years 7 – 9)

Heywood Avenue, Onchan Isle of Man, IM3 3AR +44 (0) 1624 648900

+44 (0) 1624 648900

UPPER SCHOOL (Years 10 – 13)
Ballaquayle Road, Douglas
Isle of Man, IM2 5RA
+44 (0) 1624 648800

HEAD TEACHER Mr C. J. Coole

29<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to share some of the exciting changes that are currently taking place here at our school and to also let you know of our intentions for the future.

First of all though, can I pass on my thanks to all those parents who contributed to the Parent Survey that was conducted last term. The survey identified several areas that we could improve on as a school and I have used these findings from the survey to help set our priorities over the next year or so. The main areas identified included communication between school and home, behaviour and discipline, healthy eating and the consistency of teaching and homework. My intention is to build on much of the good work that is already going on in the school and to address these areas over the coming months and years.

### **School Ethos and Values**

In light of the feedback gained from the parent, student and staff surveys I have spent some time over the last couple of months reflecting on the essence of what our school stands for. From that a new school ethos and set of values have been established that will underpin and guide all what we do here at school going forward. I have included a summary of these for you to read through with this letter.

### **School Emblem**

Our St. Ninian's Ship emblem has undergone a little bit of facelift. The new version is still very much recognisable as the traditional St. Ninian's ship, but it is now depicted as moving forward and at its centre are the three shields with the symbols reflecting our core values of respect, aspiration and empowerment. Increasingly you will see this new emblem being used by the school and over time it will be phased in completely as we replace stock. There will be no additional cost to the school associated with phasing this in.

# **School Website**

Our new school website was launched last week and has been designed to make it much easier to navigate and find relevant information, particularly for parents. Please do visit it and spend a little bit of time looking through it. The parent section includes many useful pages and I would draw your attention to the 'Communication' and 'Letters Home' sections. The site will also be regularly updated with news of what is going on here at school and I intend to keep you all informed each month through the 'Head Teacher's Blog' so do please use it. Over the coming weeks and months, we will continue to develop and add to the content of the site and I would appreciate your feedback on it through our contacts page.

Continued......

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# **Other Developments**

It is a particularly exciting and busy time here at St. Ninian's. We have already reviewed and rewritten our Teaching for Learning policy this year and over the coming months we will be developing a new positive behaviour policy which will include the establishment of a brand new rewards system as well as a new behaviour management system to launch in September. These will better reward all those students who consistently show a positive attitude to learning and will also take a firm line with those students that are not ready to learn and may sometimes disrupt the learning of others. Following the feedback from the parent, staff and student surveys we will also be reviewing and updating our antibullying and homework policies. You will be informed of the details of these as and when they are completed.

## **Sponsorship**

With regards to the new rewards system which will launch later this year, I am keen to explore all avenues of how we might best resource this development and I request any of you who work for companies that may consider sponsoring some of the rewards for students in some way to get in touch with me here at school. Our aim is to be able to offer a wide variety of rewards that students can choose through exchanging their reward points - some may be experiential rewards that will not cost anything, others may involve priority access or being eligible to attend reward trips, others maybe vouchers or discounts etc. Our hope is to be able to offer a wide variety of different rewards so that there are things that will interest all of our students. Any help on this front will be greatly appreciated and I look forward to hearing from you if you think you might be able to help at all.

Finally, can I encourage you to continue to let us know if there are areas you think we can improve on. The website has a suggestions box on the homepage for you to use or you can just email through to our enquiries. As parents you play a huge part in the success of your child's education and it is important we all work in partnership to ensure their future success.

Yours faithfully

Mr C J Coole **Head Teacher** 

**Enclosure** 

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### **MISSION STATEMENT**

"Empowering our students to be self-motivated and confident learners who have respect for others and clear aspirations for their future success."

### **OUR AIMS**

- · Every student is empowered to take responsibility for their own learning and decision-making.
- Every student leaves with clear aspirations for their own future success.
- Every student has developed the skills and dispositions to be life-long learners, make a positive contribution to society and be an active and engaged citizen.
- Every student shows care and respect for themselves, others, their community and the environment.

### **OUR ETHOS AND VALUES**

Our ethos is to foster the character of our students through the development of good habits which reflect our three core values of Respect; Aspiration and Empowerment.

The foundations for success at St. Ninian's have always been built on the positive relationships and mutual respect shown between students, staff, parents and governors.

Diversity is celebrated and valued with everyone expected to respect their school, island and global communities. Our school is a school for everyone.

All at St. Ninian's High School aspire to be best they can be. We reward hard work, dedication and progress. Students are also given opportunities to look ahead, plan for the future, and are guided to select the most appropriate pathway to enable them to maximise their future success.

Students are empowered to think for themselves, make decisions and take responsibility for their own learning and future.

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