



JWW/LRG

1 March 2010

Dear Parent,

School Improvement and Development

I hope you would agree that Bablake already provides a positive and challenging environment for your child's learning and education. However, there will always be areas which we could improve, and it is therefore vital that we should frequently evaluate what we are doing and how we do it. Such a process also helps to inform the School's Development Plan.

We are now in the third year of the current Plan, and the School Development Group is therefore in the initial stages of drawing up a plan for the next three years (2010-2013). We have annually evaluated progress on the current plan, and adjusted it accordingly; much has certainly been achieved, and we have kept you abreast of developments. I attach the school aims and the strategic objectives for 2007-2010 for your reference.

Having consulted both teaching and support staff, I would now again greatly value the input of both pupils and parents. A sample of pupils, randomly chosen from different year groups, will soon complete questionnaires, and views will also be elicited via the school councils. Your experience, opinions and ideas will be very helpful as we formulate plans for the next phase of the school's development. I would therefore be grateful if you would take the time to complete a short questionnaire, answering one set of parental questions per child.

In order to complete the questionnaire, you should launch your internet browser and type <http://bablake.webhop.net> into the address bar. You should then be presented with a dialogue box, asking you to enter a username and password, to authenticate your identity. Please enter the username and password used by your son or daughter to log onto the school network, in order to gain access to the questionnaire. If you prefer to answer on paper, please either ask your son/ daughter to collect a questionnaire from Reception, or ring the School, and we shall send you one. In either case, please complete the questionnaire online or return it to Reception by **Wednesday 10 March**.

I have not this year held any Parental Focus Groups for different year groups, but have instead replaced them with an evening to focus specifically on the School Development Plan on **Thursday 18 March** at 7.30pm in the Theatre. I shall give you feedback on progress over the last three years, and there will then be the opportunity to contribute in smaller group discussion to ideas for future development. We shall finish for refreshments and the opportunity to chat more informally by 8.45pm. Please return the pro forma below if you would like to attend.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. Your views are invaluable, and it is vital that you should help to mould an exciting and enriching future for the Bablake community.

Yours sincerely,

J W Watson
Headmaster

Please return this pro forma to Reception by Wednesday 10 March, if you would like to be involved in the Focus Evening (School Development) on Thursday 18 March.

I/we would like to be involved in the Focus Evening on Thursday 18 March. (Delete as appropriate.)

Name.....

Son/ daughter's name and form.....

Signature.....

School Aims:

The purpose of Bablake School is to provide an excellent and stimulating education for boys and girls, by developing character, intellect and physical well being within a happy, scholarly and caring community. In order to achieve this, the School aims:

- to provide well-qualified, dedicated and enthusiastic staff, who enable pupils to enjoy their education and to fulfil their academic potential whilst at school;
- to encourage the growth of reflection, intellectual curiosity and creativity, within a spirit of independent and co-operative learning;
- to value and support each individual, providing a high quality of pastoral care, and nurturing self-esteem and mutual respect, in partnership with parents;
- to provide a challenging and balanced curriculum, which prepares pupils for adulthood, enabling them to succeed in higher education and their chosen careers, and equipping them with skills for life;
- to offer a wide range of activities and opportunities for enrichment, enabling pupils to develop sporting and cultural interests through participation with others;
- to celebrate achievement and success in all areas of endeavour, within a purposeful and secure community;
- to encourage development of character, a sense of responsibility, spiritual values, and a strong personal and moral code, leading to the highest standards of behaviour and consideration for others;
- to welcome pupils of diverse beliefs and backgrounds;
- to promote an awareness of the world beyond school, a generosity of spirit, and a sense of service to the wider community.

Strategic Objectives, 2007-2010:

Staff development and teaching:

- Ensure the recruitment, retention and development of high calibre staff
- Spread good practice in teaching, and encourage diverse and stimulating teaching strategies

Curriculum and learning:

- Maintain and develop a high quality curriculum which encourages independent and co-operative learning
- Ensure best use of curricular time

Pastoral support:

- Support staff in the delivery of the best possible pastoral care
- Improve the support of pupils through peer-mentoring opportunities

Marketing:

- Develop a distinctive profile in the local community, feeder schools and beyond
- Ensure the best possible experience of Bablake for prospective pupils and parents

Resources:

- Ensure a high standard of maintenance and refurbishment of existing facilities and resources
- Continue development of the Bablake site and sports fields