

# PARSONS MEAD SCHOOL



Est. 1897

*Headmistress: Mrs Jennifer Moran MA H Dip Ed (Hons) (T.C.D.)*

March 2006

Dear Parents

As you will know, it is traditional for the Chairman of Governors to write to parents at this time of year and to enclose the revised fees for the forthcoming academic year. This year, I am delighted to be able to also enclose an excellent pair of Inspection Reports on both the Senior and Junior Departments, which I commend to you. I am extremely pleased that the hard work of the Headmistress, her management team and staff and the diligence of the pupils has been recognised by the inspection team, and you will find further comment on this in Robin Parfitt's letter.

We are now two terms into the new association with Danes Hill School and I am sure you will agree that much has happened around the school during this time. The new ICT suite in the Senior Department is extremely popular with pupils and teachers alike and the programme of installation of interactive whiteboard into classrooms has been extended to all Maths and Languages rooms as well as Geography. The second phase of the ICT expansion is planned for early next year and will include improvements to the Junior Department's ICT facilities and the linking of the two departments' networks.

The Junior Department are benefiting from and thoroughly enjoying their new Library and, as you will have read in last week's Newsletter, the playground is being enhanced by the addition of some wonderful play equipment, with the help of the PTA, to whom we are very grateful. We do indeed have a parent community who remain loyal and supportive of the school and have been very welcoming to the new Headmistress. Governors share her appreciation of this support and welcome the improvement in communication between the management of the school and the parents.

The Bursar is currently assessing quotations for the new enclosure for the swimming pool, a project supported by the PTA who are helping to fundraise, and the installation is on track to take place in the Autumn Term. I am aware that this has been a long-held wish of the parent community and am sure that year-round use of the pool will be a great bonus to the school's improving facilities.

An important enhancement to the curriculum from the Autumn Term is our intention to increase the length of the taught day in the Senior Department. Having assessed the overall quality of education upon her arrival at Parsons Mead this term the Headmistress realised that the current length of the school day presented a barrier to reform and extending the day to 10 periods from 9 will enable her to provide a broader based curriculum. This will mean that the Senior Department will finish a little later, at 4.15pm, and will add extra lessons in the core subjects of Maths, English and Science as well as incorporating the additional language provision your daughter will receive. The PE department are also pleased to be getting an additional lesson.

I was particularly delighted to learn of Parsons Mead's success in the recent value-added tables, calculated from data provided by the Department for Education and Skills and reported in the national press. The fact that the school was second in the whole country in the measurement of the value it added to the attainment of girls between the ages 11 and 16 is a ringing endorsement of the excellent teaching and learning that has been going on at Parsons Mead over the past few years and is an exceptional achievement of which we should all be proud.

I hope that you, our stakeholders, will feel that you already get extremely good value for money for the quality education and first class pastoral care that your sons and daughters receive at Parsons Mead. With the extended day, the extra activities that are being planned and further investment in the facilities throughout the school I hope that you will feel that you will receive even better value next year.

On behalf of the Governing Council, thank you for your continuing support of the school, the Headmistress and her staff and we wish you a very enjoyable Easter break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Rumbold', written in a cursive style.

**Angela Rumbold**  
Chairman of Governors