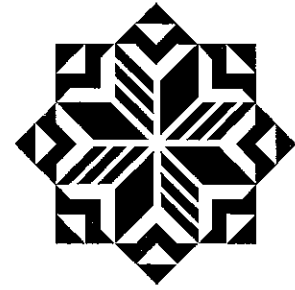


April 2010



— THE —  
**ELMGREEN**  
— SCHOOL —

Asma Mansuri MA NPQH  
Headteacher

Dear Families

### **New Academic Year and Group Changes**

All three year groups in the school will be moving up to the next academic year on Tuesday 8 June 2010. This is to enable our students in Year 10, and eventually in Year 11, to have two full years to complete their key stage 4 courses. On this day we will also be changing the way that we group students for lessons in the school.

Currently we stream the students in all year groups into three broad ability groups. This system has worked well for us whilst we have been a very small school, but we are now in a position to group students in alternative ways. These groups will be based on their ability in particular subjects or the way that certain subjects are best taught.

We have researched and consulted widely with students, families, teachers, governors and other schools.

From 8 June 2010 we will group as follows:

- English, maths and science will set by ability in their subject
- PE and DT will be in small mixed ability groups
- All other subjects will be in mixed ability groups
- Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11) option subjects will be taught in small mixed ability groups

This means that your child will be taught in six different class groups in Key Stage 3 and nine different class groups over Key Stage 4. This will give them a much broader experience and enable teachers to target the work in different ways.

Teaching and support staff have been preparing for this change since January this year. There has been lots of exciting developments in the way we are developing student's thinking skills and opportunities to work independently, in pairs and in groups. We will continue this process of training and development.

All students will work with their tutors and tutor groups over the next term to find out which groups they are in and how the groups have been put together.



humanities



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## **Year 10 Options**

All of the Year 9 students and their families have been involved in choosing their option subjects and Key Stage 4 pathways last term. It was very impressive and encouraging to have 100% of families involved in that process. The fact that tutors could focus on the small number of Year 9s in their tutor groups has really helped this process be successful; tutors were able to give good advice to their students and families.

As such I am pleased that we have managed to meet all first option choices as promised. The vast majority of students will be able to do all of their choices and no student will be on a course that they did not express an interest in.

Students will be given confirmation of their option choices on 14 May 2010.

## **Travel Situation**

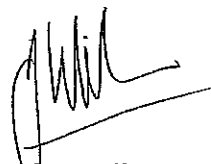
It has been an unusual first week of term for staff and students because a number of our staff were unable to return to school because of the travel restrictions. This meant that a number of lessons were not taught by the regular teaching staff. I secured the services of a number of supply teachers, and some cover lessons were being taught by our own teachers. I am very grateful to all of our staff for how they have offered to help out this week so that we were able to maintain a good level of service for our youngsters and their families.

The students dealt with this situation in 'The Elmgreen Way' and gave a really good impression of themselves and our school to visiting teachers.

Students involved in examinations next week will not be disadvantaged by not having their regular teacher with them this week. We will take this situation into account when marking the exams. These examination days are the first time that our students have had the opportunity to learn about how to take examinations in a large examination hall at secondary school. I am sure that the experience itself will help them in the future. We will use information from the examinations alongside all of the other information that we have about students and their progress when deciding how to group them next year.

I look forward to the return of all of the staff as we go through next week.

Yours sincerely



John Wilkinson  
Acting Headteacher