



Waingels College - School of the future

Principal: Ann Keane-Maher

Ktagg/principal/letters/2011-2012/Letter to Parents – December 2011

13 December 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians

As the first term as Principal draws to a close I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for all the support and encouragement I have received. I am truly delighted to lead this wonderful School and I now feel really settled into my new role.

There is much that has been achieved this term and the School has continued to engage in a whole list of extra-curricular activities from:

- Crime Writing Festival
- Rugby Tour and Girls Football Festival
- Theatre, Museum and Gallery trips
- Language trips
- ICT visits to Microsoft and RM Education
- Science trip to Tilehurst Fire Station
- Mathematics Challenge
- Visits to Studland Bay, Brighton, Marwell Zoo and even Cadbury World!

Waingels offers opportunities for everyone to become involved in the life of the School both within and outside the classroom.

As we look forward to the New Year there are a few things I would like to bring to your attention that will be a particular focus next term. We would like to ensure that uniform reflects the standards and image of the School. Whilst most students arrive looking neat and ready for a day of learning, I have noticed some variations to the uniform code as laid down in the prospectus. In particular there is a sudden influx of “skinny” trousers which would barely fit a wafer inside them. These border on leggings and are not suitable for School. The same applies to skirts which cling so tightly and are so short they threaten the decorum one would expect from young women in a learning environment. Indeed they would probably raise an eyebrow at a night-club. Please ensure boys trousers start at the waist and do not “accidentally” slide down. A nice tight belt will serve to ensure they are secure. Perhaps some Christmas voucher presents could be well spent to prepare for next year’s purge on uniform. I would not wish anyone to be surprised to discover students are being given detentions, or if they persist in refusing to engage, we begin writing to you to express concern and sending them home.

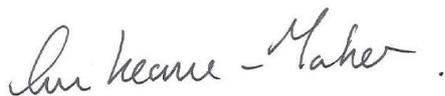
The inconvenience of the road works are now past and I hope you are finding the crossings provide a safer way to School. I remain concerned about the number of pupils who fail to wear their cycle helmets on the journey to School, instead allowing them to dangle from the handle-bars. They will be of little use if your child tumbles from their bike in front of a car. We strenuously enforce the safety of cyclists as they enter and leave school, but it is impossible to follow them all the way home. I receive many emails and letters of concern from motorists and members of the public who fear a terrible accident will happen due to silly behaviour and failure to use helmets safely.

Currently about 200 cars each morning drive down Waingels Road and through the School gates. This causes terrible congestion and not a small amount of annoyance to our neighbours, who are extremely tolerant of the entry and exodus of 1,700 people to Waingels each day. At present there are some people who represent a real hazard to the children driving through the School well in excess of 5 MPH. From the start of the new term we will be shutting the front gate at 8.30 am and again at 2.50 pm. Parents who drive their child to and from School are asked to drop and pick them at Ashenbury Park and let them walk safely via the Denmark Avenue entrance. I am sure you will recognise that this is a small inconvenience and is actually a healthy start and end to each day.

I would like to thank all the staff who have worked so hard this term preparing students for examination. The number of revision sessions, skills evenings, Saturday intensive programmes and catch-up sessions they run is quite over-whelming and goes far and above what could be asked of them. I know you appreciate all of their efforts and would wish them a happy and peaceful holiday. Can I wish the same of you. I hope you enjoy the family time together; that Father Christmas brings you a lovely surprise – and that you manage to survive the eating and drinking on Christmas Day. A very Merry Christmas to you all and a peaceful and optimistic New Year.

Best Wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Keane-Maher".

Ann Keane-Maher
Principal