

14 February 2014

Dear Parents,

### **Alton Towers**

In the past, our school has arranged a trip to Alton Towers for all pupils in the summer term; I understand that in recent years, the trip has taken place in May.

Following discussions with the Senior Leadership Team, we have decided to move the date for the trip this year. This is because taking a large number of pupils out of school in May would disrupt pupils' learning in the run-up to summer exams, and because taking a large number of teachers out of school at that time can limit their availability to help any Year 11s who may be looking for last-minute help with their GCSE revision. Accordingly, the date for the Alton Towers trip this year has been rescheduled to Thursday, 16 July - after the exams have finished.

The trip to Alton Towers is intended as a reward for pupils who have worked hard throughout the year. We are delighted that so many of our pupils fully deserve the opportunity to attend because of their hard work and good behaviour in school. However, there is a very small minority of pupils whose behaviour or attendance means that it would not be appropriate for them to participate in such a trip, and whilst I am writing I thought it would be helpful to clarify who will be invited to join the trip next term.

- As at Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February, all pupils in Years 7 to 10 will be invited to go to Alton Towers.
- However, the invitation will be rescinded from any pupil:
  - whose attendance or punctuality between Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2014 inclusive falls below 90% (although naturally allowance will be made for pupils with confirmed medical conditions); or
  - who truant(s) from any part of the school day between Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2014 inclusive; or
  - who is formally excluded from school for any period of time between Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2014 inclusive; or
  - who is placed in the Referral Room on two separate occasions between Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2014 inclusive.
- In all such cases, a final decision will be made by one or more senior members of staff. They will place particular emphasis on:
  - a pupil's previous record (previous good conduct will be a mitigating factor);
  - the nature of the event(s) that led to the decision to rescind the invitation; and
  - whether it may be appropriate for a 'contract' to be issued for the remainder of the year, under which circumstances the invitation would remain in place only if certain conditions are met. The drawing up of such a contract would not be appropriate in serious cases, or at all after the May half-term.
- Pupils from whom the invitation is rescinded will still be expected to attend school on Thursday 16 July.

If you have any questions about these criteria, or about the Alton Towers trip itself, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Stephen Brierley  
Principal