

7 July 2010



**Lincoln Minster School**  
The best in everyone

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Dear Parents

*Principal: Mr Clive Rickart B.A. (Hons) P.G.C.E.*

Almost every day there is a change of position on education from the Department for Education. Over the weekend, the future of 'A' levels was under the microscope with a pledge to revamp and an emphasis on reviving 'deep thought'. I am not against a change, particularly with the 'AS' examinations, but yet again the achievements of our young are being undermined and devalued. I am constantly impressed by the qualities of our young people. They deserve credit when due.

The most satisfying elements in working at Lincoln Minster School are watching pupils flourish, engaging in building a broad, strong knowledge base, ensuring a skills set fit for the present and the future, and creating an environment where pupils develop a mature confidence and understanding of real values. As Woodrow Wilson said:

*'You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand.'*

The end of the summer term is very much a celebration, appreciating the very many success stories. Reports have been written and read, and it is clear that so much progress is being made. The final weeks of term have been hectic with end of year concerts, sports fixtures, the Sports Awards Evening, Pre-Prep Soirée, Prep School Prizegiving, Year 13 End of Year Party, Year 11 Prom, Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions, countless trips and much more. With all of these activities there has been a real sense of enjoyment, togetherness and much to be appreciated. Throughout the year there have been highlights in so many areas of school life and the completion of our new Music School and Sports Hall can only enhance the quality of what we do in years to come. Currently the Year 12 geographers are in Switzerland completing their 'A' level fieldwork, there is a water sports holiday to Southern France and a summer camp in Romania. Project India and Operation Wallacea (to Indonesia) depart in July and August. We want the very best for all our pupils and through strong teaching, excellent pastoral care and very many opportunities we give them a terrific start on life's journey.

The School goes from strength to strength and over the holidays there will be further refurbishment, the installation of technology in the new building, the establishment of reading rooms supported by the Friends of LMS and the development of our new boarding facility in Eastgate House. Part of the reading room initiative will be the purchase of new books, together with a collection by the Friends of books that are no longer wanted. May I ask that, when you insist upon a summer clear out of bedrooms, you bear this in mind? I would be most grateful if unwanted books could be brought to the School Office either during the summer or at the start of term. This literacy drive will be ongoing and is a wonderfully powerful movement led out by both the School and Friends, from Pre-Prep to Senior School.

**Preparatory School**

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**Senior School**

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At the end of an academic year there is always a great sense of excitement and relief but also sadness as we say farewell to colleagues who have been so very important in so many areas of school life, making such a difference to so many young people. Jenny Rhodes and Judi Jones are retiring. Jenny has led our History department for thirteen years with great distinction and has combined her Head of Year 7 role brilliantly. A gifted teacher and fine professional, she has been a cornerstone of developments at LMS. As a valued member of the school community and History department, Judi's remarkable talent and love for her subject has inspired so many young people.

John O'Hara is moving on to pastures new, having taught at LMS for five years and becoming Head of Mathematics. Through his huge enthusiasm and belief that 'Maths is a wonderful thing' he instilled a wonderful confidence in his students. In addition Clare Miller, Bev Green, Richard Mason, Rachael Cox, Beth Chafik and Daniella Fairbrass are leaving their roles and I am sure that you will join me in thanking them for their excellent contributions to our School.

To our pupils who are leaving, I wish you every success for the future and thank you for all you have given to Lincoln Minster School.

A reminder that Year 7 and Year 12 start back at school on Thursday 2 September with boarders arriving on Wednesday 1 September from 5pm in these two year groups. This is to enable us to devote the appropriate time to preparation and induction of these students. All other year groups return on Friday 3 September with boarders returning after 5pm on Thursday 2 September. The School Office is open throughout the holiday, to be of assistance to you if necessary.

Next year will be one of great significance to our School and I look forward to it with huge optimism. Thank you all for your kindness, support and loyalty. As a parent wrote in a card today, *'Choosing the right school was so important and your School has more than fulfilled our expectations.'*

The summer break gives us all time to reflect on the way forward, priorities and expectations. Mother Theresa explained this well:

*'Action, to be productive, has need of contemplation.'*

With very best wishes for a very happy summer,

Yours sincerely



Clive Rickart  
Principal