

NW/kt

07 December 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

**Re: Autumn Term Newsletter 2016**

As we approach the end of another successful term at The Vale, we have, as always, been extremely busy; indeed a flavour of some of the many activities from this term is included in the latest edition of 'Vale Views'.

In addition to our continued focus on teaching and learning, we have been preparing for the imminent move to our new academy building whilst also saying farewell to our current buildings. To mark the occasion, we held two highly successful and very well attended farewell concerts in November. We also held an open evening for former students to enable people to visit the buildings for a final time; we were overwhelmed by the response and the sheer number of visitors - many of whom had travelled a considerable distance. It is clear our current buildings hold many fond memories.

The time has come, however, to move on. Our new academy building will offer state of the art facilities and will provide students and staff with the high quality learning environment they deserve. It is an exciting time for everyone and really does mark the next phase in the development of The Vale. There will be some key changes to routines and to some policies. Further details will be given to students in January in their new planners and will also be placed on our website for parents/carers. Of particular note, students will still be allowed to bring mobile phones to the academy but will no longer be allowed to use them in the academy building - full details are outlined in the revised student planner and will be outlined to parents by letter at the beginning of the new term.

**Please note that access to our new academy building will be from Atherton Way with effect from 05 January**, although access on foot or bicycle is also possible using the existing path between The Vale and St Mary's from Grammar School Road. On the first morning of the new term, all students will be given guided tours of the new facilities and maps and updated rooming timetables will be provided. There will be no change to the structure of the school day.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Dr Jayne Hunter at the end of term. As Assistant Principal she has played a key role in developing teaching and learning across the academy and she has also supported many students. We wish her every success for the future.

Owing to the three additional closure days and the two staff training days which will enable the removal and installation of all furniture and equipment, as outlined in my letter of March 2016, students break up earlier for Christmas at **3.20pm on Tuesday 13 December**. We will be waiting to welcome them to their new school at **8.45am on Thursday 05 January 2017**.

We are all looking forward to 2017 which we know will be another successful and particularly exciting year for the academy and I would like to thank you all for your continued support.

Finally, I would like to wish all students, staff, parents, carers, governors and the many people who support The Vale a safe, peaceful and happy Christmas.

With best wishes for 2017.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Williams', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Mrs N Williams**  
**Principal**