

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)/Friends of the School

Heritage Awarded Specialist School status for Maths and Computing a very special school working with and serving its community



Maths & Computing

It gives me great pleasure to announce to our community that our bid to become a Specialist School in Maths and Computing has been successful on its first submission. This is very unusual, as most schools are unsuccessful in their first bid and have to re-submit their application for refinement and further consultation.

The success of our overall application is as a result of a massive collective effort from all sections of the school's community – our students, individual parents, the Parents' Association, the Local Authority, school staff, local business, our primary school partners and a range of other contributors. Together all parties raised almost £30,000 towards the £50,000 needed. This massive effort has done much to bring the community together. It is also an indication of how far the school has progressed in its relationship with different local partners in education and business in recent years.

I take this opportunity to thank Mr Parkes, Assistant Headteacher and Mr Knowles, Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Parkes, Head of Mathematics and Miss Trevis, Head of ICT who worked together with me on the bid which ensured our success.

The Next Steps

Though we are ecstatic about the announcement, the late notification from the DfES (the Government Department that decides on the schools to be granted Specialist School Status) means that there is much to put into place between now and the start of the new academic year in September 2006, with less than two weeks before the end of the school year.

The first steps will be the re-location of the Mathematics and Humanities departments. The Mathematics department will move to G Block to ensure that there is easier access to the community of the resources that will be made available for their use. The Humanities department will move to C Block where currently Mathematics is taught.

There will also be complete refurbishment of the current ICT suites and the creation of another.

In addition to these developments every classroom will receive an Interactive Whiteboard and Digital Projector. This will enable our students to learn using the most technologically advanced teaching methods, catering for a wide range of teaching styles.

We are keen to ensure that the installation of these new resources takes place as soon as possible, and that we are able to get workmen into the school to complete much of the work over the summer holidays. In the interests of Health and Safety we want to ensure that students are not around the school when this work is taking place. To this end the school will close two days earlier than published at the end of term, and begin one day later than published. This means that:

- the last day of school for students will be Wednesday 19 July 2006, and
- the first day of term for the new academic year will be Thursday 7 September 2006, starting at 8.40am,

when we are hopeful that the majority of the work will have been completed enabling the school to operate as normal.

We apologise for the lateness of this notice, but the school was only notified last week that it had achieved Specialist School Status.



Maths & Computing



Specialist Schools Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



2004 - 2005

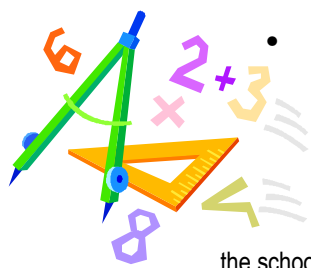


Heritage Community School
Boughton Lane
Clowne
Chesterfield
S43 4QG
Tel: 01246 810259
Email:

info@heritage.derbyshire.sch.uk

What will specialist school status mean for our students?

In a nutshell, our students and community will benefit from:



- general improvements to the learning environment in many of the school's teaching spaces – new carpets, decoration;
- electronic whiteboards in every classroom;
- more and newer computers around the school in more subject areas;
- an investment in new technologies to enable us to make learning more interesting and enjoyable;
- opportunities for parents and adults to get help in mathematics and computing from the school;
- in consultation with our students, a chance to change the school's identity and name and develop a new fresher image that reflects the school we have become;
- a likely increase in local business being prepared to sponsor the school or provide opportunities for our students;
- additional teaching and technical staff to support the teaching of mathematics and computing;
- support for our primary partner schools in their teaching of mathematics and ICT;
- support for small businesses who may benefit from access to teaching aimed at improving the ICT skills of their workforce.



We are extremely excited by the potential opportunities that Specialist School Status will bring to our school. In the new academic year we will formally launch the school as a Specialist School in Maths and Computing.



Food for Thought

From September 2006, under the Leadership of our Catering Manager, Jackie Housley, there will be significant changes to the catering service that we provide for our students. These changes take account of new national standards for school meals that also come into force in September.

Our students will benefit from eating in newly decorated eating areas. There will be new furniture and new eating utensils. In addition to this we will be extending our catering provision to include a **breakfast service** and a **brunch service** - in the middle of the morning, as well as lunch.

We ask parent/carers to encourage their children to take advantage of the new breakfast service. As we all know, breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Our Breakfast Club will be open from 7.55 am to 8.25 am on a daily basis. Students will be able to purchase a good healthy meal that will provide the necessary nutrients and energy during the morning to prevent the 'mid-morning slump'. On sale will be hot sandwiches, toast, cereals, fresh fruit, yogurts and a range of other foods. We hope that your child will take advantage of this service. As a community school, we welcome parents/carers to join their children for breakfast if they so wish.



School Transport

A reminder that with the start of the new 5 period school day in September the timings of the school contract buses will change accordingly. The new timetables are:



Timetables - All services are operated by Johnson Bros Tours.

Contract 111	
Whitwell Station Road	08.10
Whitwell Square	08.12
Whitwell - The George	08.15
School	08.30

Contract 112	
Bakestone Moor	08.10
School	08.30

Contract 114	
Hodthorpe Post Office	08.10
Whitwell - Welbeck Street	08.12
Bakestone Moor	08.15
School	08.30

Contracts 512/3/4	
Creswell - Elmfields	08.10
via Skinner Street	08.15
School	08.30

Contract 515	
Creswell - Regors	08.10
via Sheffield Road	08.13
School	08.30

Return journeys - all buses depart school at 3.10 pm.

Homework Clubs

Late buses - on Wednesdays and Thursdays a late bus operates for children attending the Homework Clubs - departs from school at 4.15 pm.