



POCKLINGTON SCHOOL

From the Headmaster, Mark Ronan BA

25 January 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians

Last June, during the interview process, I was walking towards the dining hall for lunch and was able to observe your sons and daughters enjoying a rare warm and dry summer's day. I was struck then by the friendly, caring and positive manner in which they engaged with each other. It was at this moment that I was convinced that I wanted to be part of this community. Both Fiona and I have greatly appreciated the warm welcome we have been given. This is now the 15th day of my first term at Pocklington and the passion of all of those I have met has only confirmed my view that it is a privilege to take on the Headship of this school.

Schools are energized by the engagement between students, teachers, support staff and parents. This has been evident to me through walking around the school, standing on the touchline, observing a rehearsal for *The Government Inspector* and talking to Lyndhurst and Pocklington staff. I look forward to meeting many of you at forthcoming school events such as the play, House Music festival, soloists' concert, Lyndhurst and Pocklington parents' evenings and sports tournaments.

My aim this term is to maintain continuity so that those students who are taking public exams can be confident that the energies of teachers and support staff are focused on ensuring that they can achieve their best. Secondly, I want to get know the school, though I am conscious that this term is short. Currently, I am meeting all students in the Upper Sixth and the clear and consistent message from them is that they enjoy the friendly atmosphere and value the positive relationships with staff. I am grateful to all those who work at Lyndhurst and Pocklington for the support that they give your sons and daughters.

Finally, at the end of my first day at Pocklington, I received a letter from a resident of a local care home where four of our Lower Sixth students visit on a Thursday afternoon:

Dear Headmaster

On behalf of the other elderly residents in the above home, I should like to express our gratitude for the visits of some of your students.

They instantly established friendly and interested relationships for which we were grateful. In no way were we made to feel inadequate because of our great age.

I think that this kind of contact is of tremendous value. It is wonderful to meet such charming, intelligent personalities.

I couldn't agree more.

Yours sincerely

Mark Ronan

Advance notice – Please note that the exeat this Summer term is Saturday 3 May, Sunday 4 May and Monday 5 May (May Day Holiday).