

Thursday 24th May 2018

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 4,

Re. Organisation of Y4 classes into Y5

As many of you will be aware, at the end of Y4 we re-organise the classes of your children. We strongly believe that doing this as the children move into Upper School is beneficial for so many reasons: not only does this give an opportunity for the cohort to explore new working relationships and friendship groupings, it also provides the opportunity to experience 'change' in a safe and known environment prior to secondary transfer at the end of Y6. We also recognise that the make-up and dynamics of classes change over time, and so this provides us with the opportunity to re-address the balance. This has been very successful over the past couple of years and in preparation for the new academic year, we are now considering the make-up of the new class groups.

We will always take into account a number of factors in order to ensure that each new class is well balanced and able to function effectively in the best interests of the children. These factors include gender, ability, Special Educational Needs, social and emotional factors, and our in-depth knowledge of which combinations of children are likely to work well or not so well in terms of learning. Whilst it can often be effective to maintain established friendship groups, this is not always the case if a particular group of friends are distracting each other in class. Our view is that learning needs in the classroom will generally take precedent over friendship groupings.

We fully appreciate that some parents may have concerns about the structure of their child's class for the coming academic year. If there are, therefore, any genuine issues that we are **not already aware** of, please do **contact the Y4 team directly, in writing**. The staff will, of course, ensure that friendships are taken into account, although there are no guarantees as to with whom the children will be placed. In addition, during school time we will ask the children themselves to provide us with a list of friends before our process takes place. We are therefore not expecting parents to provide us with a list of their child's 'best friends', but to only inform us with any further information if appropriate, by **Wednesday 6th June** at the very latest.

Please note that we will not be making any changes to class lists after they are published in early July.

Please be assured, that as always, our primary objective is to create the best possible learning environment for each child.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Purcell (Head of School)