



July 2008

Dear Parent/Carer

As your child is going through the transition into secondary school you may be thinking particularly hard about their future education. I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you now about changes being brought about by the Education and Skills Bill. Subjected to approval by Parliament, new reforms will increase the minimum age at which young people can leave learning to 17 from 2013, and 18 from 2015.

Your child's year group is the first cohort that will be directly affected by this change and will benefit from the expectation that everyone will stay on until they are at least 17. Young people will be able to participate in a number of ways, such as continuing in full-time education, including school or college, work-based learning, such as an Apprenticeship, or part-time education or training, alongside a full time job.

All young people have the opportunity to get involved in something valuable and engaging. By 2013 there will be a new curriculum and qualifications offer that will provide the right learning opportunity for every young person, including an entitlement to study new Diplomas at three different levels and a commitment to provide an apprenticeship place for all young people who want one and meet the entry requirements. There will be improved careers advice and support services to make sure all parents and young people have the information they need to make the right choices, and financial and other forms of support will be developed to make sure they do not form barriers to young people accessing provision.

This is a really exciting time in the development of the educational offer for young people and your child is going to be among the first cohort to benefit from these changes. As your child makes the move into secondary school it is often helpful to talk with them about what they might want to do and the opportunities for them ahead.

If you would like to find out more information on raising the participation age or any of the other developments in 14-19, please visit the DCSF website on <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19>

Here at Finham Park, we also have the inspiring prospect of a complete school re-build – which we very much hope will be completed in time to benefit those joining the school this September. We will be sharing more information about this in the Autumn, starting with an exhibition of outline plans in late September, by way of preliminary consultation.

With very best wishes for the Summer.

Yours faithfully

**PAUL LOGAN**  
Headteacher

