

# Newsletter

**November 2000**

Dear Friends,

Over the past month or so I have devoted a substantial amount of time to the re-writing of the School Handbook which is to be issued to parents of next year's new first year intake. The handbook not only gives a description of the school and what goes on inside the building but is both an implicit and explicit statement of our values beliefs and ethos.

I have been in post now for over three years and have purposely waited for a while before reviewing the Handbook, to allow me the time to understand the school and to give everyone associated with the Harris a better opportunity to know me. As I began to work through the various sections, Aims of the School, the Curriculum, Extra Curricular Activities and so on I gradually became even more aware of the years of input by successive generations of staff and pupils which had brought the various aspects of school life to the position in which we find them today. I constantly make the point to today's pupils that they have much to gain from the school experience and that they should also try to leave a little piece of themselves behind when they move on. One Hundred and fifteen years of young people's donations to the school have accumulated into the robust set of values which characterise the Harris tradition. As I completed my revision of the handbook I reflected on the fact that at the outset of a new millennium the school was well prepared to meet the needs of the twenty first century youngster through having an outward looking view of the future which has grown, and will continue to grow, from a well tried and tested set of values.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the former pupils for their generous donations towards the new front doors on Perth Road. The doors which were completed in early September are a handsome celebration of the millennium and enhance the facade of the building. I will be in contact with you soon to extend an invitation to a formal ceremony to mark their installation.

Can I thank you all for your continued support of our school and look forward to seeing you in January at the Burns Supper.

Yours sincerely,

James Thewliss

Head Teacher.