



9 October 2009

Dear Parents,

We hope you are well and that your children have enjoyed the first few weeks of term.

You may recall that we wrote to you at the start of term, explaining that Highgate School and the Parents' Association are working to develop a partnership around Volunteering. The purpose of the partnership is to create a simple way for parents to find out more about volunteering to support organisations and charities in the local community.

To get the partnership started, there will be an evening event in **the Mills Centre** (on Bishopswood Road) on **Tuesday 20 October at 7.30pm**. There will be wine and refreshments available from 7pm. After a brief welcome and introduction, you will be welcome to circulate around a "carousel" of representatives of different organisations: each representative will speak for five or so minutes about his or her experience of volunteering, and then answer your questions. There will be a short plenary at the end of the evening, and you will leave knowing how to take your interests further. This evening will be an excellent opportunity for you to talk to representatives from both big and small charities, some of which work right across the borough and some of which are much more localised. We are sure that you will find the evening to be interesting and stimulating.

We are very grateful to the parents who have volunteered to talk about their volunteering. So far, the following organisations will be represented: School Governors; Age Concern's *Befriending* initiative; Hackney Bulls Youth Rugby Club; Finchley Rugby Club; Reading Support in primary schools; Cancerlink; Shelter from the Storm; Home Start Haringey; Jackson's Lane Arts Centre; the Family Holiday Association; Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture; KEEN London; the Harrington Scheme; Action Aid; The Prince's Trust. We're very pleased that we will have representatives of what might be thought of as the standard charities, but also of the less familiar ones. We're not going to explain here more about each organisation – if your interest is piqued, then do come to the event!

If you would like to join us on 20 October, it would be very helpful (not least for catering purposes) if you would let Robert Wilne know, either by writing to him at the School or by emailing [robert.wilne@highgateschool.org.uk](mailto:robert.wilne@highgateschool.org.uk) by Friday 16 October.

Thank you for your support,

Best wishes,

Robert Wilne and Caroline Woollard