



Dear Parents

Stageahead and Zing

I write to advise you of what I hope you will find an interesting and exciting opportunity. I am sure that you will be aware of a number of the 'brain training' products which have found themselves to be popular with all ages. Some of you may have done battle with your children on, for example, the Nintendo DS 'brain trainers' and been surprised, I expect, by the nimbleness of the young mind.

You may also be aware of the interest that one of the directors of the school, Mr Wynford Dore, has in this area. A not-for-profit research group sponsored by Mr Dore and involving academics from a number of universities here and overseas, Stageahead have been working on the development of an online system which offers cerebral development through mental and physical activities on a monitored daily basis. Having explored the use of all manner of exercises and activities in stimulating core brain activity Stageahead have launched Zing and used it with a number of volunteers of all ages. Results are promising.

I am keen to explore the possibilities that Zing offers us as a school but more particularly what it may offer your children individually. Indications are that a few minutes activity each day, built into and supported by the family routine, can have a significant effect on a person's ability to concentrate, on a person's short term or working memory, on a person's hand-eye coordination and a number of other key indicators of academic and sporting success. It is difficult to be specific about an age group for Zing, but indications are that with parental help it will work well with children from Year 3 upwards – and the oldest participant at the moment is in his 60s.

Zing works best with people who want to do it, who commit to it daily and who are encouraged and supported at home. Rather than introduce this to the entire school community therefore I would like to extend an invitation to those of you who feel that you would be interested in knowing more. Next Tuesday 27 September at 7pm I will be hosting a meeting for parents in the school hall. You'll be able to hear more about Zing, about the exercise and activity routine, about the effects that we are seeing already and about our hopes for the future. There is no commitment made by attending to find out more, and there is no charge to sign up or to take part at all, nor will there be.

I believe that what is being developed here has the potential to do great things. I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday. If you intend to join me, would you be kind enough to drop an email by return?

Yours sincerely

David Williams