

4 September 2015

Cranbourne Business & Enterprise College

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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back after what we hope has been a relaxing and enjoyable break for all. A special welcome goes to all new staff and students who will, I am sure, settle quickly into the Cranbourne community.

Congratulations to all our students, who left in the summer, on their GCSE results. We recognise the achievement and progress that all our pupils made; whether it is the students who achieved 12 A/A*, or the student who battled hard to achieve a grade C in English and Maths or students who achieved five GCSE passes, despite difficult circumstances. Results were particularly strong in Btec PE and Science, Photography, Art, where over 30% of students achieved A/A* and Textiles, with 80% A*-C and over 50% achieving A/A*.

With the many government changes to the examination system it is impossible to compare results year on year but we are already looking hard at how we can improve our results for next summer:

- With a far greater emphasis on terminal examinations the current Year 11 will have two mock exam weeks, one in November 2015 and another in March 2016, taking trial examination papers in all the major subjects. These will take place in the Sports Hall, where students will also take their final examination papers, in order for them to get used to the examination process. Results from this will enable us to have a clear view of each student's current level of attainment and provide the opportunity to personalise support from the analysis for each student.
- We are identifying a group of students, who are at risk of not achieving their target grades, so that we can ensure they all have mentors from the staff. We are also reviewing our mentoring system so that it gives maximum support to these students throughout Year 11.
- We will continue to monitor student progress in every subject by regular half termly meetings.
- With the higher emphasis on spelling, punctuation and grammar used in these examinations it is important that parents understand how they can help their sons and daughters prepare for GCSEs. So please book the dates for Year 7, 10 and 11 Curriculum Evenings this term!
- We run a comprehensive system of clinics after school for Year 11, with a booking system, which should help parents to know when their son / daughter needs to be at a clinic. It is our intention to review how effectively we are communicating attendance at these sessions. Clinics provide a good opportunity for students to work on their controlled assessments and attendance is often vital to ensure the best possible controlled assessment marks are achieved.

I am pleased to bring you news of an exciting new initiative. We are introducing a computer package called 'Show my Homework'. This will allow all parents/carers to view what homework their son or daughter has been set. It is our intention to start using this new system in the next couple of weeks. Certainly, by the end of September, all parents/carers should be able to log on to see, direct from

the teacher, what homework has been set for their child. We hope this will encourage discussion, at home, about the homework and ensure that all students are spending an appropriate time studying independently. It is important for us to understand if this system works effectively and we will be asking for feedback, before the end of the term, to establish whether you find this system more helpful in understanding what your son / daughter should be doing for homework.

As you all know our Ethos Statement, written in conjunction with the students, has six strands:

- Respect
- Achievement
- Environment
- Personal Best
- Working Together
- Enterprise

We are currently working with the students to help them to really understand what these things mean on a day by day basis at Cranbourne. We are starting with 'Respect'; it is our strong belief that if we all show appropriate respect, in all that we do, we can work together to further improve the learning environment at the College. This is, of course, our ultimate aim!

Finally, can I bring to your attention our Open Evening which is on Wednesday 23rd September 2015 from 6.00pm to 8.30pm. Normal school will finish early on that day at 12.40pm to allow for both students and staff to prepare for what is always a very busy evening.

As always I would like to thank you for your continued support in what promises to be a very busy and exciting term.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Elkins', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

B Elkins
Headteacher