



18 July 2019

Dear Families,

Once again, we have come to the end of a very busy year with the final half term being particularly packed with a wide range of events, trips and activities. There is not enough space here to document all of these but many of them are celebrated on our Twitter page which I invite you to 'follow' if you are not already doing so.

Whilst this academic year is coming to an end, we are already making plans for the new term and I wanted to inform you of a couple changes we are making for September. Firstly, we are introducing a new approach to behaviour; one that is already used by many schools including our primary schools. We are simplifying our rules so that they are both easily understood by students and consistently applied by staff. We are then using a restorative approach when a student misbehaves, to avoid them escalating through a consequence system and ultimately being removed from their lesson. If involved in a more serious incident a student will spend some time working with a member of staff to reflect upon their actions, and be involved in mediated, restorative meetings to resolve any issues. We already provide high quality pastoral support for our students, but we want to further develop this provision for students who may be experiencing difficulties. We have spent a long time researching this approach and it is proven to be more successful in building positive relationships and encouraging students to self-regulate their behaviour. As part of this we have been lucky enough to be chosen to take part in the Alex Timpson Programme so that we can better understand some of the challenges our students may face and the impact any personal trauma might have on both their behaviour and ultimately their learning.

At the heart of any behaviour policy we must ensure that lessons are well planned so that students are engaged and remain in the lessons learning. Alongside our new approach to behaviour we have also undertaken a significant piece of work on developing our curriculum to ensure our students have all the skills and knowledge to be successful and happy adults when they leave us at the end of Year 11. As part of this we are developing our student leadership programme and as well as our new Head and Deputy Head Students we have introduced the new role of Assistant Head Students to lead on key areas of the school. Next year we hope to work closely with our students to gather their views on a range of issues including homework, rewards and extra-curricular opportunities. We are excited by these new initiatives however, as you will appreciate any significant cultural change takes time and we are therefore introducing things slowly to ensure they are properly embedded. And of course, to make any changes work we rely heavily on the support of both the students and families and we hope that you will support us in what we believe is the right approach for our students. We welcome your feedback and if you wish to discuss this further please contact us in the new term.

As always, the new term will no doubt see many of your purchasing new school uniform, the details of this and a range of other things you need to know are included in our new A to Z which is available on our website. I hope you will read this carefully as we have tried to give key information to parents/carers that should answer the more frequently asked questions. If, however, there is anything that you feel should be included next year please let us know.

It only remains for me to remind everyone that the new term starts on Tuesday 3rd September 2019. As always we have a staggered start, with Year 7 students arriving in the Sports Hall for 8.30am and all other students coming in for an 11.15am start when they will go straight to their form rooms. I would like to thank you all for your support this term and hope everyone has a happy and restful holiday.

Hayley Clacy
Headteacher