

Our ref: ljm/KDV/Correspondence

30 October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Re: Parental Update – Autumn Term 1.2**

Having settled back into school after half term, I felt that it was a good opportunity to update you on a few things that have happened over the last few weeks and highlight some other things coming up. We have had a great first half term since returning from the summer holidays and it has been wonderful getting to know our new Year 7 and Year 12 students, as well as seeing our existing students step up again. The atmosphere around college is calm and studious and it is wonderful to see all the great progress our students continue to make.

### **School Performance Data**

Over the half term holiday, the government published the national school performance data so that schools can see how well they have done compared to other school in the country. As you know, the school has changed significantly in the last few years. While school life is not just about exam results, they are a clear way we can measure how we are doing compared to schools all around the country. Following our fantastic results last year, we have been delighted to again see that our results are far above the city and country averages. For any parents/carers who want to look at the DfE website, it can be found here: <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/120297/the-city-of-leicester-college/secondary>.

In summary though, **students at The City of Leicester College make far more progress between their Year 6 SATS and their Year 11 GCSE Exams and therefore get far higher exam results than most students in the city or country.** The published results are based on the scores our students have achieved in externally set and marked assessments, which have then been compared by a Government Department. It is therefore a very robust measure of school performance and one that we are extremely pleased by. In my very first letter to parents, nearly four years ago, I said that I wanted to make sure that this community had a school at its heart that allowed students to realise their huge potential and these results are further evidence that we have achieved this aim. School improvement is never finished, of course, but it is important to celebrate being part of a high achieving place because it does not come without huge effort from students, parents and staff. While I am proud of what our students and staff do in school every day, I never underestimate the impact on our success that you have as parents or carers so thank you again for supporting your child(ren) to display excellent character every day.

### **Parent/Carer Support**

A very clear way that you have been showing your support for the school has been the attendance at our various parental events this year. From our parents' information evening to our Wednesday morning parent drop-ins through to our parents' evenings it has been wonderful to see you all in school supporting your child(ren). We had some fantastic feedback from parents, and we are looking for more opportunities to invite you in and work together. Our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Hurdley-Lees is setting up a parental focus group to work on some ideas but in the meantime please let me know if you have any ideas or suggestions. The next event we have is our **Sixth**

**Form Open Evening on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November** at 5:00pm so you can find out more about our offer for students in Years 12 and 13.

### **Closure Days**

I wanted to also remind you about the three closure days we have coming up in November. The college will be closed for students on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November**. These closure days are unusually placed this year but have been placed there to break up the extremely long second half term. Secondary school is extremely taxing for our young people and schools nationwide see students unable to perform at their best due to tiredness and illness in the weeks building up to the Christmas holiday. We are hopeful that this rest will break up the Autumn term, allowing more quality hours of learning to take place. As an added bonus for some families, it also coincides with Diwali celebrations. Students are then expected back at the normal time on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Drop off and Pick ups**

Finally, I just wanted to remind you all about drop off and pick up outside school as we move into the darker, colder and wetter months of the year. Please do not park on double yellow lines or no parking areas outside of school and make sure that you are respectful to local residents. We have had very few issues regarding parental pick up and drop off which shows we have all been working together, but that gets even harder to achieve in the bad weather and poor light. Please remember to drop off and pick up away from school and to drive responsibly and sensibly as there are many young people in the area who may not assess risks as well as we do as adults.

Kind regards,

**Mr. K Vernon**  
**Head Teacher**