

Our ref: ljm/KDV/Correspondence

08 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Start of Academic Year 23/24 - Parental Update

After almost two full weeks back I thought I would contact you all and update you with the start of term. Firstly, I want to thank you all for supporting the school in ensuring your child is in full uniform and on time each morning. This is the best and calmest start to a year we have had and that starts with the expectations set at home. We have of course allowed students to not wear their blazers in the building during the heat wave this week, but we will return to full uniform from Monday, 11th September when the temperature is due to return to normal for September.

Results – Working Together

I have been round to lots of lessons and students are focused, calm and working hard and if we work together to keep your child being active or ambitious in their learning, they will go on to great success. Speaking of success, we have now analysed our outcomes from last year and we were again overjoyed to be far above national averages. While our overall results are slightly down on last year, this is a reflection of the national drop in results caused by returning to 2019 levels of attainment. The gap between us and national and local figures remained significant and our students again, did amazing things in their exams. I know that exam results are not the be all and end all in terms of success, but better grades open more doors and make lifelong success easier. Sustaining these excellent outcomes reflects the hard work of our staff, our students, and our families. Our community can achieve great things when we work together, as we have shown yet again.

Road Traffic Safety

With three large secondary schools in a very small area, traffic will always be an issue but at the start of the year it is always more acute. Please can I ask that if your child is able to walk or cycle that they do so. If this is not possible, please ensure you drop them further away from the school. The less traffic we have on the roads, the safer the students will be and the more easily parents will be able to drive away from the area after them dropping off. For new parents, can you please avoid using the car park of the school or leisure centre and avoid blocking residents' entries. While obviously my powers are very limited in terms of traffic enforcement, I have been having meetings with local leaders and there is increased eagerness for traffic restrictions or more traffic enforcement which will make the start and end of day more difficult for families. If we can work together, hopefully we can avoid restrictions being put in place.

Parental Information Evening

I also want to say a huge thank you to all the parents who came to our Parental Information Evening on a sweltering Wednesday night. It was a great chance to share some of our success stories; how we approach teaching and learning and the huge number of pastoral provisions we offer as a school. The main aim was to help parents understand better how we work and then understand how they can support their child to be even more successful. The presentations were well received, and the senior leadership team were able to have lots of great conversations with

parents at the end of the evening. If you were unable to attend or did attend and want a reminder of anything that was covered, the presentations are available on the College website.

I want to close this letter as I started, by just saying thank you all again. By supporting what happens in school, it gives students a consistent set of expectations and allows them to thrive. We cannot achieve this alone, so please remember that you can contact us any time or drop in and see us between 08:30am and 09:45am on Wednesday mornings in main reception.

Kind regards,

Mr. K Vernon
Head Teacher