



Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school for the summer term. As always, I hope you were all able to enjoy some rest and relaxation with family and friends during the spring term break, when many of our families celebrated Easter and others began the celebration of Passover which continues this week. Our Orthodox Christian families will celebrate Easter this weekend and I would like to send them good wishes for that.

We started the term with our usual Tuesday assembly for Year 11 students. I was delighted to share the excitement and congratulations extended to a large number who were receiving subject achievement awards for their work last term. We are focused on supporting our students in Years 11 and 13 towards the start of their Public Examinations later this term. As we said in assembly, we know they are ready. It is important for them to feel confident to rest and relax as well as to continue their work to ensure they achieve at least their potential when the time comes.

This year's Condition Improvement Fund work to replace internal Fire Doors continued throughout the holiday. Snagging for the whole project should be completed by the end of term. The new ash wood finish of doors has brought light into dark spaces and together with larger window areas in doors, the school has taken on a new airiness. I must say though, it was a little sad for me to see some of the doors dating from the 1960's and others from much earlier in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, leave the building.

There are a number of off-site educational visits this term, starting with the A Level Biology Field Trip this Friday. Look out for news of all of those visits in the Newsletters for the coming months. The recent GCSE French immersion experience in Nice and its environs during the holiday, was a huge success. Everyone agreed the experience of staying with families was an added benefit and all the students appreciated the itinerary organised by Madame Bass.

We are looking forward to meeting our new students, currently in Year 6 at local Primary schools, later this term. We have filled all available places (180) for September's Year 7, with students who live less than a mile away from school. The waiting list currently has another 180 students. We are delighted that the school continues to flourish and that with the greatly reduced catchment area, it really does serve its community.

I look forward to seeing you all at events and meetings for families throughout this term.

Yours faithfully

Violet Walker  
Headteacher