



Imagine, Believe, Achieve

22 November 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to everyone who has completed the parental survey that we sent out earlier this week. We have received over 250 responses so far. The closing date is one week today, and I would encourage all parents / carers who have not done so, to please complete the online form.

After a very hectic two weeks, our Year 11s have completed their mock examinations, and are now waiting with baited breath for their results. Overall, we are very pleased with how they have approached the exams; however, some issues have arisen that we need to address now rather than in the summer. Mobile devices going off in bags were an issue on at least two occasions. If this happens in the summer, we have to report this to the exam board, which can place the exam for all students in that location at risk. Arriving late to exams or not turning up is also something we need to be negative. In the summer, you cannot enter an exam hall late, and we will charge parents/carers for the cost of the paper if this is the case, or if students fail to turn up for a paper they have been entered for. The College pays for all examination papers at a cost of around £60,000, and it is unfair for the cost of missing an exam to be borne by the rest of the students.

A reminder that parents will be able to receive feedback from the mocks and an overview of students' general progress at the Year 11 Parents' Evening on the 12th of December, which is also General Election night. We did consider changing the date; however, we have kept it as is, due to the fact that it would have created some disruption at this late stage.

Yesterday we welcomed a member of the 'Commando Joe' team for the first time to the College. James Guest is an ex-Army serviceman who served in the Scots Guards for 10 years. James will be working two days a week with students in the College acting as a mentor, building resilience and aspiration with an identified group of students.

Just a quick update on the uniform supply situation. We have given notice to our current supplier, as we have not been happy with the service they have provided. We are currently in discussions with a range of other suppliers with a view to contracting an alternative company. To be clear though, this will not mean that we will be changing the uniform for existing students. However, we are looking at a potential refresh of the PE kit for new students starting in Year 7 next year. For all other students it will be the same as before. I will give you an update when we confirm the new arrangements.

Finally, a request for parents and carers. Overwhelmingly the conversations we have with parents are supportive and cordial. However, there are times when emotions and sometimes tempers run high and this has resulted in some of our staff being spoken to with excessive rudeness, personal comments and in some cases being sworn at. Whatever the situation and however difficult the scenario, no one should have to be faced with such outbursts. Therefore, we would ask that all conversations that take place be conducted in a professional manner.

Yours faithfully

Daniel Baxby
Principal