



Imagine, Believe, Achieve

5th April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

The Easter break is now upon us, and it does not seem like two minutes since we were returning from the Christmas holidays.

The Year 11 students continue to be focusing on their preparations for the upcoming examination period. There are a number of additional arrangements to support our students, including period 6 lessons across all subjects, a full schedule of support sessions throughout the Easter holidays and we begin late night supported study at Haddenham, Sutton and Witchford when we return after the holidays. It is important that our students balance the rigours of exam preparation with the need to relax, and we are working closely with students to ensure that their time is utilised as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Our congratulations go to all of the participants in the spring concert, which once again showcased many of the talents our students have in Dance, Drama and Music. Congratulations also go to the students who participated, and were victorious, in the Parability Football tournament.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to a couple of members of our staff this term. Mr Berthon, the driving force for so many years in Music, leaves us after his finale spring concert this week. Mrs Tingey also leaves us to take a well-deserved break in a new direction outside of teaching and Mrs Rosselli, who was covering our Art maternity post, is also moving on to a more permanent position elsewhere. I would like to thank them all for their work and commitment to the College over the time they have been with us, and we all wish them well.

However, we also welcome a number of new appointments who are joining us on a permanent basis. Mrs D'Cunha, who many students and parents will already know, joins us as the new Lead Teacher of Music and Performance. Mr Pinkney joins us as the new Head of Lancaster House and as our new Design Technology teacher. In a few weeks, Mr Holmes joins us as our new Lead Teacher of Computer Science and Mrs Carson joins us in English. We welcome them all to our College.

A reminder please, that the new mobile devices policy commences after Easter. The mantra is 'Silent and Away'. My thanks for the support I have received about this move, which I believe is the correct response to the pressures many of our students are facing in relation to social media etc.

Finally, yesterday we received a fantastic bit of news. The College has been successful in its bid for extra funding from central government to complete urgent repairs to some of our infrastructure. We have secured funding of over £500,000, which will allow us to replace all of the leaking and blown windows in the three-storey block. We will also be replacing a number of flat roofs across the site, as well as making good a number of issues in these areas. We are extremely fortunate to have been able to access what is an increasing declining pot of central funding - our first ever successful bid. Although it does not solve the pressures on the College as a whole in relation to funding, it does allow us to continue to future proof the site, and provide an environment worthy of our students and staff.

On behalf of all at Witchford, I wish you a happy Easter and a reminder that due to the bank holiday we return on Tuesday the 23rd of April.

Yours faithfully

Daniel Baxby
Principal