

9th September 2019

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Welcome to the start of the 2019-2020 academic year. We hope you all had a good summer holiday and enjoyed the time together.

May we take this opportunity to congratulate you and your children for returning to school so smartly dressed, in a positive frame of mind and eager to see what this year brings. It is an incredibly busy but exciting year ahead. Over the summer holidays, building work on our new state of the art science and technology block began; four additional classrooms were built next to our all-weather pitch; an additional girls changing room was added and two new computer suites were equipped with new computers increasing the capacity to thirty PCs in each room. Our new multi-use games area will be finished within the next week, which provides three brand new tennis, basketball and netball courts along with the provision for floodlight use. Although parts of the site are restricted over the course of the year, so far it has been incredibly well managed by Kier and the students have taken it in their stride.

We have all been so proud of our Year 11 students, the class of 2019, who have just left with a stunning set of results. 74% achieved grades 4-9 in English & Maths and 51% grades 5-9. As a measure of the impact we have on our students, we also recorded a provisional Progress 8 score of +0.6, which in essence means on average every child did half a grade better than they should. The college is continuing to prove that it ranks as one of the highest performing schools nationally and is hugely proud of the reputation it is building. This is just reward for the dedication and hard work our students have put in and the quality of teaching provided by our teachers to ensure that all students have that passport to success so they can go on and study at sixth form or go into employment or an apprenticeship. The challenge for the year ahead is to keep this momentum going as our students continue to raise the bar as we raise our expectations. Our current Year 11 students will shortly receive their draft mock exam timetables for December and March 2020 and they will also be available on our website.

We have a new Parent App called INSIGHT for all parents wishing to receive updates on their son or daughter. As the App rolls out, functions that will become available include messaging, booking parents' evening appointments and details of your child's homework, attendance, timetable and house and behaviour points. A huge thank you to Miss Cecil and her working group for setting this up. Miss Cecil will be writing to you shortly explaining how you download the app and log in. If your contact details have changed please can you inform the school immediately.

As you may be aware the college is heavily oversubscribed in all year groups and we welcomed our new Year 7 cohort last week, with 194 students joining our family. We are very impressed with how well they have all coped with the change and how quickly the students are settling in to their classes. A huge thank you to the Year 11 prefects for supporting them with the transition. May we also take this opportunity to introduce our college Chaplain, Fr Luca, who will be working with an ever-expanding chaplaincy team ensuring our Catholic ethos remains at the centre of everything we do. Last week all our year groups spent some time on what our ASPIRE values mean, what they look like and how we demonstrate them. This led to presentations in the main hall from all year groups and we are very proud to witness the students' dedication to our college ethos and culture.

Now as we start the school year, please can we ask that you help by making sure that students have their planners signed weekly, and that the all school agreements are also signed from pages 14 - 19. The planner has information about the topics students are studying in each lesson so that hopefully you can keep up with their lessons and have conversations at home about their learning journey. They will also include a record of your child's homework, which is a crucial part of the learning process. Thanks in anticipation for your help with this. You may want to be aware that our summer uniform now includes shorts for boys and girls which can be purchased from Skoolkit. Although it is a while till the summer term we thought you should be aware. A huge thank you to the student council for making this a reality.

May we also bring to your attention a group called the "Friends of Saint George" who work tirelessly to support the college, attending events and raising important funds to improve our school. They consist of a group of parents led by Mr Chris Heyes. If you would like to join please email friends@stgcc.co.uk

Hopefully, your children will have informed you about our forthcoming Open Evening on Thursday, 3rd October 2019. As usual the college will close at 12.20pm to prepare for the evening. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of a number of forthcoming events:

1. Year 7 Settling in Evening – Thursday 26th September 2019– 5:30pm
2. Year 7 Welcome Mass – Friday 27th September 2019 – 11:30am
3. Year 7 Action Stations Trip & Pilgrimage - Wednesday 2nd October 2019 and Friday 11th October 2019
4. Open Evening, Half Day Closure, 12:20pm Finish – Thursday 3rd October 2019
5. Year 8 Options Assembly – Friday 4th October 2019 P5
6. Year 11 Maths & English Intervention Evening – Thursday 17th October 2019
7. EARA Day – Normal School Uniform – Friday 18th October 2019
8. Battlefield Trip Departs – Wednesday 23rd October 2019
9. Year 8 Curriculum Information Evening – Wednesday 6th November 2019, 6pm
10. Year 10 Core Information Evening & Work Experience – Thursday 7th November 2019, 6:30pm
11. Wear Blue, Non uniform day, £1, Anti Bullying Awareness – Friday 15th November 2019
12. Year 10 Parents Evening – Wednesday 20th November 2019, 5:30pm
13. Carol Concert – Immaculate Conception – Thursday 5th December 2019, 7pm
14. Christmas Concert – Thursday 12th December 2019, 6:30pm
15. Mentoring Day – Wednesday 18th December 2019

Finally, it is with a heavy heart that we must inform you all that Mrs Sue Olive, our English teacher of almost thirty years, passed away over the summer holidays following a short battle with cancer. Sue spent most of her teaching career here at St George, arriving in the mid-1980s, and she was a much loved member of the school and community. We are all grateful for her work and commitment to her vocation, teaching thousands of students at St George over those long years of service. A donation page has been set up in her honour. Please see the link below if you would like to make a contribution or leave a comment:

<https://www.kindlink.com/charity/the-st-jerome-s-centre/2352/fundraising>

We would like to thank you and your students for their excellent start to the term. Best wishes for another successful year!

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Habberley
Headteacher



Miss Lyn Bourne
Executive Headteacher



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