



Good Afternoon,

I trust you have had restful and enjoyable summer break. As the term ended I wrote to inform you of a variety of changes we will be implementing during the break for the start of the new term in September. This letter is an update on the key issues to keep you informed on current developments which will impact on the new term.

### **School Refurbishment**

I am pleased to report through collaboration with the Local Authority we have secured a significant schedule of summer works to improve the school infrastructure and ICT capacity.

The refurbishment work has been scheduled to provide the least disruption to the students, prioritising work to be completed over the summer in areas that cannot be accessed whilst the students are in school. There will be continuing work until 27<sup>th</sup> September on site in the main hall and the sports hall and some outside areas. The remaining works to be completed will be carried out when the school is closed to students. Please rest assured appropriate measures have been put in place to provide the least disruption to the students and ensuring students are kept safe at all times.

For your information the works include a whole school deep clean, a complete refurbishment of the main hall, sports hall, reception area, front office, science corridor, boys toilets, canteen area (including expanding the canteen into the conservatory to generate a larger more usable space for students dining), re painting of all classrooms through a rolling programme across the year, re cladding of the front of the school, installing a security gate for both vehicle and pedestrian access and re tarmacking the pedestrian path from the gate to reception.

In regard to IT we have installed 107 new higher specification desktops into the IT suites, provided laptops for all staff, upgraded the Wi-Fi system to increase connectivity speed and coverage, installed professional projection and sound into the main hall, digital signage around the school, interactive visitor management system, upgraded all projectors within teaching rooms and increased the security cameras on site. We are also in the process of finalising the schools new website, which will follow shortly.

### **Uniform**

All students are to be dressed smartly following the school policy, including black shoes only. I can also emphasize that skirts should not be rolled up and that for sixth form the dress code is smart office wear.

### **Attendance & Punctuality**

Attendance and punctuality are of vital importance to the school, National research has shown that good attendance leads to good attainment, hence we have appointed a new Attendance Officer, Mrs Sparkes. Mrs Sparkes will be monitoring attendance data on a daily basis and will liaise with parents when needed if attendance concerns arise. To ensure the safeguarding of all students we have installed a new electronic gate system. The Senior Leadership Team will be monitoring a late gate system daily. Any student to be late will serve a 15 minute detention on the day of lateness. If this punctuality becomes a persistent problem for a student then other strategies will be put in place to address this.

## **Behaviour for Learning**

The school has a new Behaviour for Learning Policy which the students will be made aware of on their first day back at school. I would like to draw your attention to some of the new strategies in place. Each student will be given a responsibility card to monitor their good behaviour and also to record any misdemeanours.

The school rules regarding mobile phones have now changed. Students will be expected to keep mobile phones/electronic devices out of sight during lesson time, and movement between lessons. The only time mobile phones/electronic devices are allowed out is during break and lunchtime. Failure to follow this ruling will lead to removal of the phone and potentially parents having to come and collect from school.

To help manage extreme/repeated cases of poor behaviour the school has introduced an exclusion room. This is to help the school avoid cases of fixed term exclusion and keep students in school. However fixed term exclusions may still be used according to the schools behaviour policy. Which can be found on the school website.

## **First Day Back Arrangements**

First day back Wednesday 4th September. Please see timings listed below.

Years 7, 12 & 13 to be in at 08:50am

Years 8 & 9 to be in at 10:50am

Years 10 & 11 to be in at 11:50am

All students will have a year group assembly before going into tutor time for timetable and other school administration distribution.

## **Parent Forum**

I would also like to start a parent forum within the school. This will consist of a group of interested parents who want to work with the school more closely to deliver the best education for our students discussing concerns, issues and general school news. The group will meet termly. If you would interested in joining this group please let Mrs Lewis know via email on:

[ALewis@archbishops.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ALewis@archbishops.kent.sch.uk)

Finally, I would like to recognise both our year eleven and thirteens success with their exams this summer. For those staying on into sixth form we looking forward to working with you for the next two years. For those that are moving on into university, college, the world of work and apprenticeships we wish them every success with their future. We are looking forward to welcoming all of our students back on Wednesday and to a successful year.

Kind regards,



David Elliott