7th September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer and Students

I am delighted to welcome you to the start of another academic year.

We have once again seen students returning looking very smart in full school uniform; thank you for the part you have played in ensuring this. I would like to remind you that students are not allowed to wear facial piercings, makeup or jewellery, except for one plain stud in each ear. Extreme hair styles and unnatural colours are also not permitted. May I also take this opportunity of reminding you that students are expected to attend school for 190 days per year, which is the legal number of openings any school must have. There is a wealth of research that links good attainment with good attendance and sanctioning absence of any kind jeopardises this. As a result, I must impress on you that school can no longer authorise leave in term time.

On behalf of the staff and Governors I would like to offer our congratulations to all our students who have recently left school; we wish them every success in their future. Many results for Year 11 exceeded the targets we set for them and we are extremely proud of their achievements. The results of all our students are testimony to the hard work of the students themselves, the staff and you, the parents, who together have put an incredible amount of hard work and effort into the outcomes that were achieved.

100% of our students achieved at least 1 qualification

78% of our students achieved at least 1 A/A\* grade

20% of our students achieved at least 3 A/A\* grades

50% of students achieved 5 or more standard passes at GCSE

70% of our students achieved a standard pass or higher in English Language

65% of our students achieved a standard pass or higher in Mathematics

3 of our students achieved grade 9 in Mathematics and 1 achieved grade 9 in English, which places them in the top 3% of the country for performance for these subjects. Finally 1 student achieved A\*\* in Further Mathematics, which is the highest grade that can be attained in this subject and can only be described as elite performance.

Completion of homework is one area that we worked hard to improve last year and the impact on student progress of completing homework has been significant. Consequently, we plan to build on the solid foundations that were laid last year, with even closer monitoring of the quality of work that students produce. Homework is given as a means to extend and enhance learning and is not given simply for the sake of it. With this in mind, students who fail to complete homework or fail to complete it to a satisfactory standard will be issued with a detention. Students who are required to attend detention will be notified by their class teacher or Progress Leader and we expect that students will let parents/carers know. We sincerely hope that the need for these detentions is a rare one, but your support in reinforcing the need to complete homework on time is appreciated.

Our annual school Open Evening takes place this year on Wednesday 4th October, starting at 6pm. In previous years, we have closed early to allow staff and students who are involved to get things ready during the afternoon. Therefore, I intend to **close the school at 12.55 p.m. on Wednesday 4th October** so that this preparatory work can take place. I hope that you understand and support this decision. Full lunch provision will be available for all students as we will amend the timing of lessons to incorporate an early lunch.

On Thursday 21st September we will be holding two induction sessions, one for year 9 and one for year 11, to which all year 9 and 11 students and their parents are encouraged to attend. These years of their school career are crucial for students since they mark the beginning of the GCSE journey and the end, and we use these evenings to prepare them and their parents for the demands of the forthcoming months.

We welcome to our school a number of new teaching and support staff this term;

* Mr Glover – Maths
* Miss Grove – PE
* Mr Llevo – English
* Mr Phillips – History
* Mr Pugh – Head of History
* Miss Wells- Head of French
* Mr Young – Geography
* Mr Patel – Finance
* Mr O’Rourke – Site Team
* Mr Thomas - English
* Mr Burn - Geog
* Mr Deeley - PE
* Miss Shepard - History
* Mr Wareing - Biology

Within school students have access to a confidential counselling service which can be accessed on a self-referral basis. If you would prefer your child **not** to have the opportunity to self-refer, please could you return the reply slip attached.

May I draw your attention to the Privacy Notice a copy of which has been placed on the School’s website. This explains the school’s use of the personal data that we hold on our students and to whom we may need to share that information with. If you do not wish the school to pass on the data to the Youth Support Service (the government’s information and advice service for all young people age 13 to 18 - formerly known as the Careers Service), please let me know personally, in writing.

Finally, I would like to alert you to the future direction we are planning with regard to communication with parents/carers. It is our intention to send all communication electronically by December 2017 at the latest. To assist us in this, I would be grateful if you would confirm an up to date email address on the data collection sheet that your child will bring home. For those parents who do not have access to email, we will continue to provide paper copies of communications, but I would ask that you note this on the data collection sheet.

Thank you again for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you in person at one of our many school events.

Yours sincerely

Miss S Asquith

Headteacher

**School Counsellor – Self Referral**

Return to: Miss Parkinson, Student Services

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Form: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I **DO NOT** wish my son/daughter to self-refer to the Counselling service

Signature of Parent/ Carer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_