



Wednesday, 9th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

A Happy New Year to you all and welcome back. We do hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year break, and that your child is well rested and keen to settle back into school. We have been delighted to welcome students back into school today. Our two staff training days provided a very productive start to the term; teachers are ready to deliver exciting lessons and trips. In addition we look forward to welcoming you to our forthcoming parent events.

The term has started in an exciting and ambitious way for a number of our Year 10 students. They were invited to Oxford University for a Maths-focused day encouraging high attaining girls to consider Mathematics at A-Level and beyond. A big thank you and well done to the students and staff that took part.

We would like to take the opportunity to update you on a few items and to remind you of our ongoing high expectations for all students.

It is fantastic to see so many of our students come back to school in exemplary uniform today. Heads of House are working closely with form tutors and students to ensure uniform standards remain high throughout the year. We value your support in ensuring students are in full school uniform including black shoes every day – a big thank you to all parents for supporting us with this.

Regular attendance is one of the most fundamental ways to ensure students are successful at school. Our target for all students is to have attendance of at least 96% across the school year. We are delighted that we are currently meeting this target and that we still have a large number of students with 100% attendance. This is well above the national average. We appreciate you planning any family holidays to fall completely within the school breaks and also booking medical or dental appointments **outside** of the school day. Where appointments during the day are unavoidable please return students to school as quickly as possible after their appointment.

The school day begins at 8:30am promptly, with students in form tutor groups from 8:40am. Thank you to the vast majority of parents who ensure that your child arrives on time.

We continue to review and revise our policies. After discussions with students and staff we will be implementing a slight modification to our silent transitions policy. The policy was implemented to ensure smooth transitions between lessons, ensure learning time is not lost, that existing lessons are not disrupted and that there is a calm and purposeful learning environment. Students have responded well to these changes and have supported the school in its implementation. We have listened carefully to the views of our students, and as a result of their positive response, have agreed that they will be able to talk on the way to morning break as there are no other lessons taking place at this time. The other lesson transitions will remain as they are currently.

Please also be aware of some upcoming key dates for your calendar:

Year 8 Parents Evening – Monday 28th January

Year 9 Options Evening – Wednesday 23rd January

Year 10 Parents Evening – Wednesday 13th February

We look forward to seeing you at the appropriate event.

Very best wishes for the coming year.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is a stylized, cursive signature that appears to be 'AH'. The second signature on the right is a more legible cursive signature that reads 'A Stephens'.

Alex Hughes and Andrea Stephens