



3 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to start with a repeated thanks to the large numbers of parents who have continued to supportively contact staff at College, where messages have come to me directly I have shared them with staff and I know it is hugely appreciated. There is much to celebrate about the achievements of the College and our fantastic staff and students over the last week.

### **Welcome to Year 7 2023-24**

With the announcement of secondary places this week we are delighted to welcome a new cohort to our community. We have sent letters this week to start the transition processes. We are fortunate again to be oversubscribed and so will look to initiate the process swiftly so information can be shared and changes made if necessary. We look forward to meeting our Year 7 2023 as soon as we are able.

### **Visit to College from Rotary**

On 28 February the College was visited by 11 members of Rotary. They first had a presentation about the approaches and aspirations of the College and then we invited them to go for a tour of the school with student guides to test out if what we had told them about what we do was evident! The feedback gave clear testimony to the pride, ambition and sense of community they could see. Through their eyes they saw and spoke of purposeful classrooms, clean corridors, fantastic artwork, a culture of reading, of friendly energetic teachers and of *“being blown away”* by *“the quiet and calm atmosphere throughout the school with everything neat and tidy”*. Moreover, they commented on how the students were a credit to the College and themselves, articulate, polite and effusively proud of their school. We are very grateful to the Rotary for this feedback, their ongoing support and look forward to further potential projects with them in the future.

### **Progression and Ambition**

Last week Year 12 enjoyed a [progression day](#), planning their possible future steps beyond College Sixth Form and this week Year 11 started their Sixth Form interviews to begin their journey in those footsteps. There is considerable career and pastoral advice for all students making choices about their future destinations and ambitions from Year 8 options, Year 11 decisions about courses and colleges to Year 13 study and career choices. Please do get in touch if you require any further assistance to support these progression conversations.



Distinguished School



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## Follow up from events last week

Thank you to all parents who have supported us in managing the follow up to the events of last week, thank you especially to all who have followed our advice about seeking only information from us. We are aware an amount of misinformation may have been circulated and would repeat that social media is not reliable as a source. At no time were police or any other emergency service called, no windows were broken and there were no fires or eggs thrown. All students who chose to engage and disturb lessons throughout period 3 were supervised on site until safely collected by parents on the day.

We can assure you that whilst a small percentage of our students chose to engage in events, the vast majority of over 95% of students took no part and showed no interest in doing so. It is also worth noting that compared to other equivalents (affecting over 25% of secondaries nationally) this issue was small in scale and did not carry the majority of the student body support. The voices of the minority who took part and felt 'unheard' are important and we are making efforts to hear them, but they are not the majority.

Any disruptive and anti-social behaviours will never be acceptable at College, and all dialogue is expected to be respectful and democratic. We have subsequently issued a small number of internal sanctions and 10 suspensions for students involved in anti-social and abusive behaviours. There is now a chance for these students to move forward in a more positive manner.

We have also spent time listening this week to those involved in a more peripheral way, providing space for them to individually articulate their priorities and aspirations. A summary of this analysis is attached to this letter, the dialogue continues and must seek to involve all students as we move forward.

## Looking ahead

We are looking forward to next week welcoming 'Wild Science' to meet Year 8. Staff will value speaking to Year 9 parents in Subject Feedback Evening and the following week we launch some fabulous new House Events for students to support.

Thank you again for your ongoing support, please also continue to view our [Latest News](#) on the website for more about recent student achievements and contact your pastoral teams or subject teachers if you are at all concerned about your child.

Yours sincerely



**MS C BARLOW**  
Headteacher