

17 July 2018



Dear Parents, Carers and students

Here we are at the end of another busy year and yet again, our students have been a credit to the college. Our Year 11s and 13s conducted themselves admirably during the high-pressure exam season and we look forward to them achieving some well-deserved grades in August. Students have excelled once again in extra-curricular provision, with excellence in sports, drama, music, technology and many other areas. We have had many visitors to the college, particularly employers and educators coming in to help our students understand the future opportunities available to them and assist in planning their next steps. It is always gratifying to hear positive feedback from our visitors and it comes as no surprise that all of our guests have commented on the superb conduct and attitude of our young people.

Some of you were lucky enough to see our production of *Grease* earlier this year and I hope you agree that it was fantastic. Thank you for your support in coming to share the experience with us. Plans for next year's production of *The Little Shop of Horrors* were recently unveiled and a huge number of students are keen to get involved. Do keep your eye out for tickets going on sale as it promises to be another sell out event.

I cannot cover all of the year's successes here but our social media pages and website allow you to keep abreast of daily life at the college. Details of these are at the foot of this page.

Thank you to all of you who have supported the college in ensuring your children have appropriate uniform and equipment. This really does help us. Please can I offer a reminder of my letter of 2 May, which explained that students should not be wearing any form of leather trainer or plimsoll from September, including the Converse or Vans style pumps. If you are uncertain or have a teenager that is trying to persuade you that the latest black trainers are "definitely allowed", please do get in touch before shelling out for a new pair. You will be aware that we have allowed students to leave blazers at home due to the recent hot weather. Full uniform expectations will resume from September. In response to feedback from our students, we will be introducing optional sports leggings to our PE uniform. Full details regarding this will be sent separately. Please note that this item is of a specific style that will be available from our Uniform Shop.

I am sorry to include a moan in this letter, especially one you have all heard before. However, we continue to have parents and carers ignoring the sign in order to drive right up to the college at the start and end of the day. There is simply not room to do this safely. We have nearly a thousand children and young people arriving at and exiting the building at these times and having vehicles trying to squeeze through or reverse around them is an obvious danger. Some of our staff who have asked parents not to do so have received abuse or been sworn at by the drivers. I am fully aware that these individuals are not representative of the vast majority of our parents but do have to make overt that our staff have the right to carry out their work (which includes keeping children safe), free from abuse, harassment and threat.

If you deliver or collect your child by vehicle, please agree a place on one of the surrounding roads where you will meet them or allow time to park and walk to the college. Thank you to all of you who already do this as a matter of course.

One final update for you is regarding academy conversion. You will recall that we had planned for this to happen in September. However, the decision making is being held up by the Department for Education and so the process is currently behind schedule. I will let you know as soon as I know more.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support this year; it makes a huge difference to us. The term has not quite finished yet and we are looking forward to seeing our students experience a range of new opportunities during the Activity Days. The last day of term will be Friday 20 July.

I hope all of our students and families have a fantastic summer break. The first day of term for our students will be Tuesday 4 September and I look forward to welcoming back old faces as well as greeting new members of our community. In the meantime, have fun and stay safe.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Newton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alex Newton
Principal