

04 December 2016

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Dear Parent/Carer,

We have had a very busy term at the College. Our Year 11 students prepared extremely well for their recent trial examinations. Year 13 students are submitting their university (UCAS) applications and Year 7 participated in a fantastic residential to Lea Green, near Matlock. We have also had some successful fundraising events for Children in Need and Barnardo's. I know that, across the College, staff have been very pleased with students' behaviour and concentration in lessons, as well as their participation in wider school activities.

As we approach the Christmas break, I wanted to share the arrangements for our end of term celebrations, as well as some positive Ofsted news for our Teacher Training programme. Thank you for your ongoing support already this term; below there are details of the next Parent Drop-In Sessions which I hope many of you will be able to attend.

'Good' Ofsted for our Teacher Training Partnership

We are very pleased to inform you that our school-based initial teacher training (SCITT) partnership has been awarded a 'Good' judgment by Ofsted in its first inspection. In their report, Inspectors praised the comprehensive training provided and the quality of our trainees and new recruits' teaching.

Other key strengths highlighted included:

- Our commitment to produce "*the very best teachers for pupils within the East Midlands and for the city of Derby in particular*";
- Trainees' "*professionalism and their commitment to ensure that all pupils, but particularly the most disadvantaged, achieve as they should*";
- The "*success of the partnership in attracting those trainees wishing to teach Science and Mathematics*".

I am delighted that the Inspectors' report recognises the efforts of our staff and trainees over the past two years and sets a very positive basis from which to build on further. We look forward to continuing to work with our partner schools in Derby and within Landau Forte to develop best practice teaching and learning in the years ahead. If you would like to read the full report, you can do so here:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/70309>.

Parent Drop-In Sessions

The second series of Parent Drop-In Sessions will run this term on **Wednesday 13 December from 8.00am until 9.30am and 3.30pm until 5.00pm**. Thank you to those parents and carers who

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attended the first sessions in September. The event is an opportunity to drop into College without prior appointment and meet with the Principal and other senior staff to discuss any concerns or queries you may have.

Year 8

A reminder that the Year 8 Pathway Process Meeting for Year 8 parents will take place on Thursday 25 January 2018 at 6.00 p.m.

Student Safety

I would like to ask for your support in reminding your sons and daughters to use the main routes in and out of the city centre. Under no circumstances should students cut through the Cathedral Gardens area when making their way to or from Derby Bus Station. We have discussed this and general personal safety with students in Tutor Time and every student has watched a video clip showing the safe route into the city centre from the College.

End of Term Arrangements

Christmas lunch will be served by the College's Executive Team on Thursday 14 December and will cost £2.30.

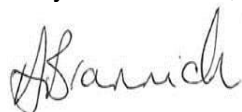
The College will close for the winter break on **Tuesday 19 December at 3.00pm**. The last day of term will be Christmas Jumper Day; for this, all students are invited to pay £1.00 to wear non-school uniform and a Christmas jumper. The Christmas Jumper Day is completely organised by Year 13 BTEC Business students and is in aid of Derby Kids' Camp. This is a local charity that provides free holidays for Derby's most deserving children. If students do not have a Christmas jumper they can wear a jumper or top in the Christmas colours of red, gold or green. Other fun activities will also take place in the Restaurant and on the Lower Mall in the College. We hope lots of students will participate in the day so we can raise as much money as possible for this very deserving local charity.

Starting this week, Year 12 students are also collecting donations for The Hope Centre food bank in Derby city centre. If you wish to make a food donation, the collection boxes will be under our Christmas tree in Reception until Monday 18 December. The Hope Centre is another very deserving local charity and our students are keen to make a difference to those who may be experiencing food poverty or loneliness during the festive period.

The College will reopen to all students on **Thursday 4 January at 8.20am**.

I wish all our students and their families a very positive end to the term. Merry Christmas!

Very best wishes,



Ms A Brannick
Principal