

May 2018

Our Ref: 2017/255



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Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of Term 4 I want to again thank you for your support. We are very pleased with the progress all year groups are making.

There are several important announcements that I want to set out for you as the holiday begins.

Firstly, we will welcome our new Year 7 students for an Introduction Day at the College on **Thursday 28 June 2018**. These students, who will join the College in September, will spend from 9.00am – 3.00pm in various sessions and meet with their Personal Tutors. There will then be a chance for their parents to come in and spend time with the Personal Tutor, have a tour of the College and hear about the Year 7 curriculum at 3.15pm. In light of this and the heavy traffic congestion expected, we are releasing all current students to make their way home at **2.30pm**.

Welcoming our new Year 7 students is always a pleasure at this time of year. Once again, the College has proved a very popular first choice for local families and we are pleased that we will be welcoming pupils from over 48 feeder primaries.

On 1 April 2018, the Department for Education updated the criteria used to determine which pupils are eligible for free school meals to reflect the introduction of Universal Credit and the gradual phasing out of other income based benefits. Under this new updated criteria, the government is estimating that by 2022 around 50,000 more pupils will benefit from free school meals compared to the previous benefits system. To check if you are eligible for free school meals for the academic year 2018-2019 please see the enclosed letter and Application for Student Support form. Those students who have been receiving free school meals for the current academic year will have already received this form and do not need to complete it again, should it have already been returned to the College. Please do make sure that you fill in the form as you may be pleasantly surprised that you are now able to access free meals for your child which, over the course of the year, can save you a significant amount of money and ensures that each of our pupils is able to get a good meal every lunchtime.

The College has a number of students with food allergies which can range from mild to severe. We ask that all parents inform the College Nurse, Mrs Askham, of any changes in their child's food allergy and medication as soon as possible and that students not only carry their EpiPen (where issued) on them at all times but provide an in date, spare one to the Nurse. For students who suffer from any allergies, we ask that parents assist their child in the self-management of their condition through frequent conversations with them. Should a student be unsure of the ingredients of any item, please encourage them to speak with a member of the catering team before purchasing.

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Fox Street
Derby
DE1 2LF

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Following consultation with all students during Tutor Time, we will be making a change to the College ties for the new academic year. Year 7 and 8 pupils will continue to wear the multi shield tie and, with Key Stage 4 now starting in Year 9, students voted overwhelmingly for Year 9, 10 and 11 to all wear the blue striped tie. These changes will take effect from Wednesday 29 August 2018 and all ties are available to purchase from the College as well as our current uniform provider, Uniform Direct (54 Babington Lane, Derby, DE1 1SX). During Term 5, any students in Years 9 and 10 who currently have a red tie will be able to exchange this free of charge at the College Reception for a blue tie.

We will welcome all students back on site at **8.20am on Monday 4 June**. As external exams are still taking place, the College will continue to be a place of particular peace and quiet whilst these conclude. I know how much our older students appreciate the way that the College operates during exam time to ensure that they are able to prepare for and sit their exams in as quiet and settled environment as possible.

Between now and the end of the academic year we have a number of exciting events to look forward to including the Year 9 Residential, the Summer Gala and both the Year 11 and Year 13 Proms.

In the meantime, may I wish you and your families a peaceful and restful break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A Brannick', written in black ink.

Ms A Brannick
Principal