

September 2018

Our Ref: 2018/202

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **2018/19 Welcome**

Welcome back to College after what I hope was a restful and enjoyable summer break. In particular, on behalf of everyone, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new students joining us in Years 7 and 12 and their families.

Once again, we are starting the new academic year following an excellent set of summer examination results. I would like to congratulate all our former Year 11 and Year 13 students on a fantastic set of GCSE and A Level results; they can take pride in the knowledge that their hard work and perseverance has paid off.

This year, the GCSE grading structure changed to a new numerical format, with the majority of subjects being measured on a 9 to 1 scale. Despite the added challenges posed by this year's GCSE system, 60% of students achieved a grade 5 or above in both English and maths – equivalent to a very strong pass. This marks a substantial increase from the College's 2017 results, complementing our student Progress 8 score which is the best in the city.

Our Sixth Formers saw similarly impressive results at A Level – topping Derby's league tables for the second year running. This year, 65% of our A Level entries achieved A\*-B and a third of grades were awarded the top grades of A\* or A. With these results, our Year 13s have continued to secure places at top Russell Group institutions or high-profile apprenticeships. We wish them all the best of luck as they begin their next steps into adulthood and look forward to hearing about their future successes.

This summer's achievements in mind, we are looking forward to a very promising and productive term at the College. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers about some important information to ensure your son or daughter has everything they need to make a positive start to their learning.

### **Student Attendance**

As many of you will be aware, the College has made improving attendance a particular focus over the past academic year. We are pleased to report that attendance levels have since increased and this has undoubtedly contributed to the strength of our examination results this summer.

Attendance is nevertheless something that needs to be a constant focus of attention so I would like to thank you all for your continued support with this.

### **Student Identification**

On students' return to College this year we have provided every student with a new lanyard which is more easily visible. In the interests of security and student safety, we ask that students wear their College identity card and new lanyard at all times. Students will need their card in the College restaurant, Information Centre and to gain access to school buildings.

Please do ensure that your son or daughter has a card and a lanyard if you have not done so already. Should your child require replacements, these can be purchased from the College Reception for £3.50 and £1.50 respectively.

### **Parking at College**

As I am sure you are aware, parking and congestion on Fox Street remains a concern at the end of the College day. If you collect your child from Fox Street in a car please observe the parking restrictions and road safety. The road quickly becomes grid locked, which means that students who wish to cross Fox Street have to walk out into the road between parked cars, with limited visibility.

We appreciate that there is limited space but we would ask that, if possible, you car share with other families or make arrangements to meet your child on an adjacent street.

### **Parent drop in sessions**

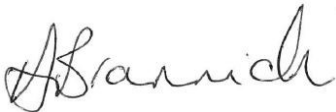
This academic year Parent Drop In Sessions will take place at the College at the following times:

- Tuesday 25 September 2018: 8.00am – 9.30am and 3.30pm – 5.00pm
- Thursday 6 December 2018: 8.00am – 9.30am and 3.30pm – 5.00pm
- Wednesday 13 March 2019: 8.00am – 9.30am and 3.30pm – 5.00pm
- Tuesday 25 June 2019: 8.00am – 9.30am and 3.30pm – 5.00pm

These sessions are an important opportunity for parents and carers to meet with me and my team to discuss their child's progress informally or raise any questions. We hope that many of you will continue to take advantage of the time slots but, in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

I look forward to meeting with you all throughout the term. Thank you again for all your support of the College.

Yours sincerely



Ms A Brannick  
Principal