



July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

As the summer term draws to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all of your support over the last academic year. We have had a busy end of term with the Sixth Form Induction, Awards Evening and Summer Showcase all taking place in the last few weeks.

Earlier this term we received a visit from a representative from the Department for Education. Feedback from this visit included:

“The Principal is providing clear direction and together with the senior leadership team is providing strong leadership. There is a clear rationale underpinning the leadership structure and the senior leadership team is working to a shared vision and towards common goals.” **DFE, Regional Schools' Commissioner, East of England and North East London.**

“The College regularly carries out surveys of students' and parents' views on a range of topics relating to school life, including safeguarding and safety. The most recent survey indicates that 95% of students feel safe and that 100% of parents, who completed the survey, said that they would recommend the College to a new parent. Communication with parents is clearly good and the fact that the college is oversubscribed indicates that it has a good reputation in the community.” **DFE, Regional Schools' Commissioner, East of England and North East London.**

“Students speak very enthusiastically about the College and particularly about the quality of teaching and the range of clubs”. **DFE, Regional Schools' Commissioner, East of England and North East London.**

We are very proud that the DfE has recognised all of the hard work that takes place at the College.

The GCSE and A Level exams are now over and I look forward to seeing the students gaining their results in August. The behaviour of the students for the exams this summer has been excellent and they have been most mature in the way they have taken revision opportunities offered by staff. Arrangements for collection of exam results are as follows:

- A Level results day is Thursday, 17th August. Year 13 results will be available for collection at 8.30 a.m. and Year 12 results will be available for collection at 9.00 a.m.
- GCSE results day is Thursday, 24th August. Year 11 results will be available for collection at 9.00 a.m.

Results can be collected in one of the following three ways:

- They may be collected in person from the College. Please note that this will be from the College dining area;
- If students wish to have their results collected by another person, the student must write a note giving that person permission to collect their results on their behalf. *Results will not be given to another person without written permission;*
- Students can provide a stamped addressed envelope for the attention of the exams office, if they would like to have their results posted.

Any results not collected or posted on the above dates will be available from the start of next term, but please note that the College will be closed from noon on Thursday 24th August until then.

Wednesday 6th September will be an induction day for the new Year 7 intake and Year 12 students only. Students should arrive at 8.30 a.m. Some Year 11 prefects will also be required to attend on that day as they will be involved in supporting and guiding the new students around the College. For all other students, i.e. Years 8, 9, 10, 13 and the remainder of Year 11, term will start on **Thursday 7th September**; students should arrive at 8.30 a.m. as normal.

Enrolment for those students that have applied to the Sixth Form will take place on Thursday 24th August 2017. Students that meet the entry requirements will complete an enrolment form confirming their intention to attend the Sixth Form and their final subject choices. Any student that hasn't met the entry requirements for the Sixth Form, or for their chosen subjects, will need to make an appointment with Mr Potter/Mrs Roughley. They will be based in the meeting room in the reception area all day and there will be a sign-up sheet for students to make appointments at a convenient time. You will also be able to contact Mrs Roughley via email at jane.roughley@sirharrysmith.cambs.sch.uk.

This year's **Academic Mentoring Day** takes place on **Thursday 19th October**. This day provides dedicated time for the tutor to talk to their tutees and parents about students' progress this year and their targets for 2017-18. We are aiming to give you as much notice as we can for this event and the process of booking appointments will begin when we return in September. Please note that the College is closed to students on this day, apart from when they attend their appointment.

I am incredibly pleased that our whole College attendance is currently at 95.31%; however, our target is 96%. I would like to thank students and parents for their continued effort with this and ask that this extends in to the next academic year.

We will continue to encourage students to maintain their 100% attendance record, or to improve their current attendance to above the College target. As normal, students will be rewarded for positive attendance in assemblies with certificates, letters home, positive Behaviour Watch emails and invitations to trips.

Could I please remind parents to contact the College as early as possible in the morning if your child is unable to attend College for any reason. **The telephone number of our student absence line is 01733 703991, option 1 and the e-mail address is absent@sirharrysmith.cambs.sch.uk** It is likely that you will receive a telephone call from the College if your child does not arrive and you have not informed us of the reason.

Thank you to parents and carers who responded to our homework questionnaire. As a result we are pleased to have launched ShowMyHomework at the College; this has enabled students to access their homework through an online system which we envisage will improve our homework provision. Over the last two weeks we have introduced a pilot system whereby students and staff have become familiar with the way in which ShowMyHomework works. From September we will be using ShowMyHomework to set all homework for students in years 7-11. You can easily access published homework tasks without a login by going to the ShowMyHomework section of the College website at <https://www.showmyhomework.co.uk/calendar/school>. If you or your child have any questions about ShowMyHomework, direct support can be found in using the following contacts: help@showmyhomework.co.uk or 0207 197 9550.

We are sad to be saying goodbye to a number of members of staff: Mr Baldaro, Mr Blakeley and Mr Ahmed are all leaving us to move on to new positions in other schools.

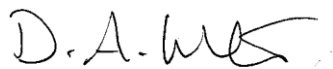
We also say goodbye to several teachers who are leaving us to embark upon retirement. Many of you will remember Mr Darters and Mrs Ashworth and may have even been taught by them! Mr Darters is the College's longest serving staff member and joined us in 1986 closely followed by Mrs Ashworth in 1988. Mr Jones is also leaving us to retire and whilst he has 'only' been at the College for 9 years, he has been teaching for a total of 44 years!

We have a number of new staff members joining us in September. Mr Smith will join us as Head of PE and will be supported within the PE department by new teachers, Mr Hewitt, and Mr Rothery. We will also be joined by Mrs Nicholls as Head of RE, Mr White in Humanities, Mr Potter and Mrs Gibson in Maths and Mrs Beadles in Business Studies and ICT.

We were delighted to learn that one of our TAs, Mrs Bailey, was awarded a British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours in recognition for her amazing contributions to the College over many years. Mrs Bailey will receive the medal at a ceremony in Cambridge and has also been invited to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace.

Finally, I should like to take the opportunity to wish you and your families a safe and happy summer holiday; I look forward to seeing the students back in College for the new academic year in September.

Yours sincerely

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

Dawn White
Principal