

September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year. I do hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer break.

As some of you may have read in the local press, the College achieved some excellent examination results during the summer for both our A-Level and GCSE students. Results are above national and also local schools within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

At A-Level, 36% of entries were awarded the top grades of A*-B. This is especially pleasing considering these students are the first year to complete the new reformed A-Levels which now include refreshed content with greater input from universities.

For our vocational qualifications, 100% of entries were awarded a Distinction* (D*) to Pass grade, with 91% being awarded a Distinction* to Merit.

At GCSE, 83% of Year 11 students achieved a level 4+ in English with 64% achieving a level 5+ and 74% achieving a level 4+ in Maths. Over 5% of students taking the new revised GCSEs achieved the new top grade of a 9.

We are exceptionally proud of our recent Year 11 and 12 students and so pleased that so many Year 12s have chosen to continue their studies at Sir Harry Smith in our Sixth Form, with our recent Year 13 students leaving to begin their studies at University or in their chosen job or apprenticeship.

Once again we are oversubscribed in each year group with a reserve list of students wishing to join our College community. We are also very fortunate to have a very talented group of Year 7 students join us following some exceptional Key Stage 2 results achieved by our partner primary schools; which I would like to add my congratulations to.

Year 7 students have settled in extremely well and have enjoyed a smooth transition to secondary school with the help and support of parents/carers, our partner primary schools, Sir Harry Smith staff and our Year 11 prefects. I would like to thank those prefects that gave up the final day of their summer holiday to come in to College and help the Year 7 students to settle in and find their way around.

Our students deserve the very best, with access to a high quality educational community which offers them life changing opportunities in a safe, creative and exciting environment.

Last Friday all our students returned to College and have made an excellent start to the new academic year and I look forward to seeing them grow as individuals, both as young adults and with their academic studies.

The new year sees a number of new staff joining Sir Harry Smith Community College. We welcome Mr Pettitt as Assistant Principal, Miss Calder as Director of Sixth Form, Mr Holland as Curriculum

Manager for Science, Mr Nicholls as a teacher of Psychology and Sociology and Miss Beddow-Twigg as a teacher of Re and Sociology.

I would like to take this opportunity to give you advance notice of College closures that will affect your child.

Early Closure – Tuesday, 2nd October 2018 – Open Evening

As many students will be involved in helping to prepare the College for the prospective parents' Open Evening and taking part in the evening displays, we will, as in previous years, close the College early on that day. Normal lessons will therefore finish at 1.20 p.m. and students who are able to return to a safe household, with parents' permission, may do so. We have made arrangements for non-service buses and taxis to depart from the College at 1.20 p.m. Please note that we will provide a normal catering service at break time, but will not be running a full lunch service. If you are concerned regarding the situation of your son or daughter, please contact the appropriate Year Leader and alternative arrangements will be made at the College.

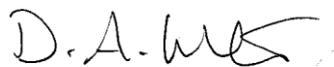
Thursday 18th October 2018 - Academic Tutor Day

Our Academic Tutor Day will take place on Thursday 18th October from 8.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Academic Tutor Day offers parents an opportunity to meet the teaching staff together with your child, to discuss progress, set targets and address any concerns regarding your child's education. Students only attend College for the duration of the meeting, with the normal timetable being collapsed for that day. Further details will follow in due course. The following day, Friday 19th October, will be a Professional Development Day and the College will not be open for students. Students will return to the College on Monday 29th October following the half-term break.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support and the staff at Sir Harry Smith Community College for all their hard work last year. I am excited about what the future holds for our community and am looking forward to the year ahead.

I hope that your child has both an enjoyable and successful year with us here at Sir Harry Smith Community College.

Yours sincerely



Dawn White
Principal