

6<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Term One! We hope that you enjoyed a wonderful summer and were able to make the best of the (mostly) good weather that we have had throughout the last six weeks.

On Monday, staff were back in school for an important training day to plan for the year ahead. We spent time discussing and celebrating the amazing results that last year's Year 10 and 11 students achieved. Year 10 (now Year 11) undertook GCSEs in English Language and RS in the summer and did exceptionally well. Already, the vast majority of these students have good passes in English Language, with a number achieving the very top grade of Grade 9. Similarly in RS, 20% of students achieved Grade 7 or above! We know that having two GCSEs 'in the bag' will make a huge difference to the workload and will ease the pressure as they compete their final year at Wyvern St Edmund's. Congratulations to them all.

Our Year 11 Leavers at both schools also gained brilliant results. Yet again, students achieved the best set of results ever – it's wonderful to be able to say that year on year! They worked so hard and were so focused and we are thrilled to be celebrating their success.

Schools are now judged on the Progress 8 score that their students achieve. It is a much more accurate way of judging a school's success because the progress score measures how well each student has done for them i.e. it is based on how much progress they have made since their Key Stage 2 SATS. Early indications show that both schools have performed significantly above the national average. That means that the students who came to these schools, did better with us than they would have done if they went to most other schools in the country. We are thrilled. That is our job – to help students to achieve more than they thought possible.

On Tuesday we welcomed the new Year 7 students to our school community. They spent the day getting to know us and finding their way around the site. Although nervous at first, by the end of the day they were confident and looking very happy! As I write this, I have just toured some Year 7 Art lessons and chatted with them: they seem to have loved their first week and they look relaxed (if a little tired!). I must thank the army of selfless and helpful prefects who volunteered to give up the last day of their holiday to assist with the Year 7 induction day.

We were very excited to see the remainder of our students on Wednesday. They arrived looking very smart and ready to learn, so after an hour's 'warm-up' with their tutor groups, we sent them straight off to lessons. It has been lovely to see them and catch up on all their news.

### **Lockers**

I have been made aware (thank you to the parents who raised this on Twitter) that there is some unrest regarding lockers for Year 10 and 11 students. Rest assured: there are lockers available – we have given lockers to all Year 7 students firstly, but there are lockers available to those who need them. Year 10 and 11 students should have been told by their tutors that, if they would like a locker, they should go to see Mrs Burns in the main office (near my office) and we will allocate them. If we need to buy more lockers, we will do, but in the past Year 10 and 11s have not always used lockers

and therefore we don't want to buy loads straight away if they are not needed. Please ask your child to speak with Mrs Burns if they haven't already done so.

### Parentpay

I understand that there have been some issues with the **Parentpay** software. This is no doubt hugely frustrating for you as it seems that some of the money you are adding is not showing up on your account. We have spent a lot of time on the phone to **Parentpay** over the last few days and they have promised us this is resolved. Please do contact Mrs Burns in the main office if you are still having problems. Many apologies on behalf of Parentpay for these issues.

### Key Information

For new parents and as a reminder to our Year 8-11 parents, in July the senior team sent out a letter with some key information for the year ahead. Please do take a moment to read the letter here: <http://st-edmunds.eu/wp-content/uploads/July-letter-to-parents-2019.pdf>

### Upcoming Events

#### Year 7 Welcome Evening for Parents – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September

We sent Year 7 home with a letter this week. Please return your reply slip by Monday at the latest.

#### Sponsored Walk – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September

We can't wait for our annual Sponsored Walk and are praying for good weather! Can parents/carers who have not given permission do so via your ParentPay account as soon as possible. A letter with details of the day will go out to students on Monday.

#### Year 8 and 9 "Meet the Tutor" Evening – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October

More information will follow.

#### Year 10 and 11 "Meet the Tutor" Evening – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October

More information will follow.

#### Parent Forum – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October – 6pm

All parents are welcome to come. We usually set a topic for discussion and ask for your feedback on how we do things and how we can improve. More information will follow.

As ever, please do get in touch if you have any queries of concerns, please contact the school on the phone number above or email [office@wyvernsted.org](mailto:office@wyvernsted.org)

Yours sincerely



Nicola Bull  
Headteacher