



14th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Head teacher of Cox Green School. It is a real privilege to have been appointed by the School Governors and entrusted with the job of leading such a vibrant and successful school. I am looking forward to working with the whole community as we strive for even greater success for all our young people. By working in partnership – parents, students and school staff - we can ensure that all students enjoy their time at school, make excellent progress and leave us with the necessary skills and attitudes to lead successful and fulfilling lives. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new staff. It has been a real pleasure to meet your sons and daughters this week, and I look forward to learning their names and getting to know them over the coming months.

A time to celebrate

As you are probably aware, Cox Green students achieved excellent results in both GCSE and A Level examinations. Below are a few of the key headlines we would like to share:

- Over 30% of all GCSE grades were A/A* and 80% of all Students achieved the 5A*-C measure including Maths and English. The average grade achieved by students was a grade B which is an incredible achievement.
- 77% of our students achieved A*-C grades, with 53% achieving the top A*-B grades. All of our students have secured University places, apprenticeships or employment and we congratulate them on their success.

Building project

An immense amount of work has taken place on the school site during the summer holidays both to enhance the ongoing environment and in preparation for the start of our building project. The list below outlines a small sample of the work which has been undertaken.

- Replacement of all ceilings and lighting in across the majority of the school;
- Decoration of English and Art classrooms;
- Creation of 2 new Science labs and the refurbishment of Maths classrooms;
- Electrical works to main school to improve electrical capacity and stability
- New temporary entrance and exit routes for students to the school due to building compound
- Installation of temporary kitchen and dining facilities

Our thanks go to the Site team and Mrs Newman and Mrs Dunne who have worked relentlessly throughout the break to ensure that the school building was ready for the start of term.

To ensure our students safety on site and to ease access, students must now access the site through the main double gates or via the Science gate. There will be no access to the site via the PE gate. We have agreed very strict rules for the delivery of materials during the period of the new build and will have a gate-man at the school gates. Staff will continue to be on duty to greet students on their arrival and departure from school. The temporary canteen has more seating and we are working to relocate the canopy to provide further areas for students to sit during breaks. We will send regular updates on the progress of the building project; the next key date is the start of the demolition of the old building which began on the 11th September 2017.

Uniform

I would like to congratulate students on the standards of uniform seen this term; however there is still work to do to ensure that all students represent the school well and wear their uniform with pride. We intend to make uniform a priority in terms of having high expectations of our students. Therefore any student wearing incorrect uniform items will be challenged throughout the school day. They will be offered alternative items to wear (trousers/shoes) if we have them available or we will phone you to ask you to bring in correct uniform for your child to wear. Students who refuse to wear or adjust their uniform to our regulations may be sent to internal exclusion or be sent home. I would like to clarify three items which have caused some confusion and some parental concern:

- Students may wear 1 small stud (plain gold or silver) in each ear lobe; no other piercings are permitted.
- Coats should be BLACK; they should not be leather, leather look, patterned etc. Coats with a reflective band should be purchased to ensure that students walking or cycling to school are visible. Mr Foster is liaising with our Community Police team to lead assemblies on Road Safety.
- Skirts should not be rolled up and will need to be an appropriate length. If a skirt is deemed to be too short, girls will be asked to change.

A full list of our uniform requirements including the new regulations is available on our web site. <http://cgss.co/uniform>. If you have any questions regarding the uniform please refer to the pupil planner or contact your child's SAFE worker or Head of Year.

Equipment

All students are expected to come to school every day with the equipment they need to be successful. This includes a full set of stationery, PE kit, a reading book, their school planner and an appropriate school bag large enough to carry everything needed for school. All bags should be BLACK – as with the school coat a bag with a reflective strip is recommended.

Mobile phones

We recognise that mobile phones and other portable devices are important to our students as learning tools, for contacting parents and carers and as a safety precaution that can be used to and from school. We will not be banning mobile devices from the school premises; however, recent research suggests that the use of mobile phones can have a detrimental effect on student outcomes. Mobile phones affect behaviour; they can be a major distraction and can be used to bully and harm others. For these reasons phones must be turned off and not on vibrate or silent and stored securely in students bags as the norm. On occasions mobile phones may be used within the classroom with the teacher's permission for learning purposes. If phones are seen at any other time on the school site during the course of the school day they will be confiscated by staff, placed in a labelled bag in a locked safe and can be collected by the parent at the end of the day or by the student five days later. If you need to contact your child urgently please phone the school Reception and the message will be passed on to your child.

Head teacher's drop-in for parents and carers

In addition to the mechanisms that we already have in place for communicating with the school, we will be introducing a half-termly Head teacher's drop-in for parents and carers, at which you can discuss any concerns or issues that you would like me to consider. The dates for the Autumn term are as follows:

- Monday 9th October 2017 4.30pm – 6.30pm.
- Monday 4th December 2017 4.30pm – 6.30pm.

Key dates for this half -term

Tuesday 19 September	Early closure 12.35pm Open Evening 5pm—8pm
Wednesday 20 September	Late Start 9.40am
Friday 22 September	Year 7 & Year 9 School Photos
Thursday 28 September	KS4/5 Study Skills Evening 6pm-8.30pm
Friday 29 September	Year 7 Longridge Trip Year 8—11 On Site House Activity Day
Monday 2 October	Open Morning 9.15am– 10.30am Year 12-14 (KS5) Parents Evening 4.30pm-7.00pm
Wednesday 4 October	Year 11 Geography Field Trip to Bournemouth
Thursday 12 October	Open Morning 9.15am– 10.30am
Friday 13 October	Year 12 & 13 Geography Field Trip to Swanage
Monday 16 October	Year 9 Parents Evening 4.30pm—7.00pm
Tuesday 17 October	Sports Academy Parents Evening 4pm—7pm
Wednesday 18 October	Open Morning 9.15am– 10.30am
Friday 20 October	Year 10 Madrid Trip End of Term 1—3.15pm

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter and thank you in advance for your support. I am determined to do the very best for Cox Green School and am committed to always putting students first when making decisions. I look forward to meeting you in the coming months.

Yours sincerely

Frances Walsh
Headteacher