

10<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Dear Parents

Welcome to all at the start of the school year and a particular welcome to families whose children are joining the school for the first time. The school year 2008-9 was another fantastic year for us in terms of the high standards reached in examinations (details below), extra-curricular events like Rock Challenge and the general appearance and behaviour of our students. I am determined that we will build on this and improve further and I would like to thank you in advance for your help in making this possible. You might be surprised how much difference it will make to your son or daughter if they come to school fully equipped (pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and calculator) and they know you are expecting them to do their very best, each day. Experience tells me that young people make the most progress when they understand clearly what is expected of them and when they receive the same message at school and at home. Thank you for supporting us.

### **Examination Success**

The highlight this year has been the **record breaking** achievements of Year 11 in the GCSE examinations. 74% of our students gained at least five grades at C or above with many gaining 12 or 13! This is the third year in a row in which a new record has been set. It has been particularly pleasing to see the success of our boys bucking national trends. The 'official' figures that measure progress are released later in the year but our estimates show that this may well be judged as 'outstanding'!

Our Sixth Form results were strong with almost all students securing their places in Higher Education. Studying at University is a very popular choice at our school and many students whose families have no experience of study at this level, are now seeing this as their first option. The key to this, good sixth form results, means that a large number of students continue with us and the Sixth Form is again very large.

### **Helping students do well**

Each year I stress the link between high expectations and success in school. This is easy to understand with work in lessons, but it is equally important in the areas of personal organisation and standards. Students should be in school on time (before 8.35), wear our uniform properly (shirts with the collar button done up) and behave appropriately ('do what you are told, when you are told'). We all know from our own experience of school how disruptive it is when an individual cannot meet these basic expectations. Our examination results show the success of our lack of tolerance for such low level disruption. With your continued support, your son or daughter will be one of many real successes as they move through the examination system.

### **For your information**

#### **Electronic Information**

Please regularly check the school web site ([www.coxgreen.com](http://www.coxgreen.com)). The front page is updated weekly and parents who have provided their e-mail address will receive a weekly newsletter. This will be used to keep you informed.

## **Early Closure**

The school will be closing at 12.45 on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September to allow time for preparations for our Open Evening. Students will be asking you to sign a permission slip for them to come home early. Students will be expected to register in their tutor groups at 9.50am the next day.

## **Parent Governor Vacancy**

Please find enclosed information regarding this vacancy and a nomination form.

## **School Food**

As you will know, we are very proud of our catering facilities – now known as 'Innovate' following a change of company name from 'Cooks'. You will know from your shopping bills that food prices have increased significantly; I believe by about 6%. This has affected suppliers to all schools and as a result prices this term have increased by on average 3%. While any price rise is unwelcome, I am pleased that Innovate have been able to use their bulk purchasing power to keep the increase as small as possible.

## **Early events**

A school calendar will be sent out shortly but here are some key dates in the near future.

17/09/09 - Year 12 Information Evening

09/10/09 - PTA Quiz Night

14/10/09 - KS3 Prize Giving Evening

## **Families living in South Bucks**

You may be aware that a group of parents have organised a bus service. I would encourage families from this area to contact the organisers and make use of this valuable new service. Please contact Anne-Marie Quinn, Tel: 07919 878222, 01628 602753, e-mail: quinn-gang@tiscali.co.uk

## **Academic Mentoring**

You will note from the calendar that our first Academic Mentoring day is a little later this year on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. We will be contacting you nearer this date to ask you to express a preference for an appointment time.

## **Winter weather**

Please remember that the school uniform specifies that coats should be of a plain, dark colour and that 'hoodies' are not acceptable. If the weather forecast indicates that there is a risk the school will need to close, we will do our best to contact you – check the web site and check your text messages. If it becomes necessary to send our students home, we will continue to assume that you have given your permission for students to leave unless you have told them explicitly to stay in school. This option will always be available. Please make sure your son or daughter knows your wishes.

## **Free School Meals**

Families on low incomes may be eligible for their children to have a free meal at school. Please telephone the main office if you would like an application form in confidence.

Yours sincerely

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Headteacher