

28th March 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is with eager anticipation that I write to you, bringing to a close our final term before we move in to our brand new state of the art school accommodation.

Firstly though, I would like to reflect briefly on this term. Students in all year groups have had opportunities for educational visits: students in years 8 and 9 visited Brunel University as part of our STEM provision, and year 7 students visited the Science Museum during Science week. The feedback from students regarding their experiences was delightful, as too was the feedback from the venues and colleagues leading the visits regarding the conduct and engagement of our students.

We have witnessed a gradual increase in sports fixtures, with basketball, netball and football all starting to firmly establish themselves as our facilities have grown. Girls' football particularly has had a tremendous term, benefitting from the coaching partnership with Wycombe Wanderers, and culminating in their silver medals at the Berkshire School Games.

We have also hosted an array of events as part of Careers Week, directly linked to the curriculum in all year groups and tailored to the stage of the students. Year 8 and 9 students took part in a role model event where they met a range of people working in different careers and industries. The Year 9s also participated in an Enterprise Day, received their Options Booklets, and as I write are submitting their final choices of which courses to study at GCSE. Pivotal to this were both the Options Evening itself and the individual guidance interviews held with each year 9 student. These events directly informed the final offering, and I know that parents and students have been pleased that we have acted on the feedback received.

The ever increasing calendar of events across the school is a reflection of the school as we continue to grow; we are searching for every opportunity to provide an enriching curriculum for our students. The core academic foundation which our learners have experienced has been supplemented with diverse enrichment options. As we move forwards and enter a new phase in our development, the new accommodation provides us with the facilities to begin growing in other curriculum areas. This will be a gradual process, but as we finalise the curriculum for 2017/2018, we are working to secure a range of technology subjects for students throughout years 7 to 9 as well as for GCSE students to further enrich our curriculum.

The students have all had a tour of our new school building and have seen the excellent new facilities we will be moving into after the Easter holidays. On our first day back, **Wednesday 19th April**, the students will enter the new school site via the student entrance which they have been shown during their tours. Maps will be provided for the students so that they learn to navigate around the building and new routines will be introduced regarding movement around the school and taking care of the environment.

Catering, trip money and Lockers

Our new caterers, Aspens, will be in operation from morning break on the first day of term in our impressive dining hall. Students will be able to eat their packed lunch as normal, or purchase food and drinks from the new facility. The school will accept cash until Friday 28th April until students are enrolled on the cashless catering system, after which no cash will be accepted. More details of which will be sent to you in the coming weeks. In a separate

communication, you will receive information about registering your child for our locker rental scheme, something I know many of the students are excited about.

Parking and Drop-off

While the landscaping and grounds of the new site are finalised, there remains no public access or parking provision for parents on the new site and barriers will be in operation. In due course, a drop off circle for use by parents will form part of the new development adjacent to the school site at the new stadium, but until that development is finished, we do not have any increased parking or drop off capacity. As developments progress, we will continue to review this and will keep you informed when we are able to offer facilities for dropping off children by car.

Parent Governors

As you will be aware, the school has recently appointed two Parent Governors, Elaine O'Brien and Asif Muhammad, both of whom are keen to hear your views and represent you on the Governing Board; they can be contacted via the school office. Their role is to represent the parental body and promote the school in the wider community in order to promote the interests of all children and support and challenge the school through their regular attendance and participation in Governors' meetings.

This is a hugely exciting time, one that has required patience and perseverance. Moving into our new accommodation represents the start of maturity for our young school. It will be swiftly followed by the start of our first student cohort embarking on their GCSE courses, a wider curriculum, a larger student intake, the recruitment of additional staff and so on. I look forward to welcoming the students into their new school on the morning of April 19th; it will be a landmark date. I hope also, that I am able to welcome you, as parents, to subsequent events and show you around the school.

Summer Term Dates:

Summer Term commences	Wednesday 19 th April
Students finish for half term break	Friday 26 th May
Students return to school	Tuesday 6 th June
Last day of summer term	Tuesday 18 th July at 1pm

The timings of the school day, contact telephone numbers and email addresses are not changing. Students should attend in full school uniform, with all of their equipment for their normal timetable on the morning of **Wednesday 19th April** to start school **promptly at 08:30**; students will be directed on arrival.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and safe Easter holidays.

Yours sincerely

Ms. N.J. Everton
Headteacher