

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Welcome back!

It has been joyous to see the return of our students this week. The start of a new academic year is always a busy one, buzzing with the excitement of new starts, new challenges and new opportunities. It has been wonderful to hear so many new students talking about their first days with such great enthusiasm, and we are pleased to see that they are already embracing so many of the opportunities offered.

I must particularly applaud our new Year 7 students who have impressed us immensely in their first few days with us, and I know the Year 7 tutors and pastoral team also agree. I had the pleasure of meeting them all for an assembly on their first day and felt a surge of pride as they entered Spinney Theatre looking immaculately dressed in their new uniforms and waiting so calmly and attentively. They have had a very full week of getting to know our school, our staff and each other; I am sure they will sleep well this evening!

## Examination Results

We are overwhelmingly proud of the exceptional academic achievements of our Year 11 students this year, which are a testament to their hard work and perseverance. Their teachers and family members will know the unique stories of each of our students and understand precisely how hard they have worked and what they have overcome to achieve the terrific grades they have received. Their excellent results form part of far greater overall achievements for this wonderful year group and we are delighted that so many of them have chosen to continue with us in the Sixth Form.

An incredible 8.1% of all GCSE grades achieved a 9, compared with the figure of 4.9% nationally. Over a third of grades (34.3%) achieved grades 7 or above, which is significantly higher than the national figure of 21%. 82.1% of students achieved grades 9 - 4, which is significantly higher than national figure (67.8%) and the national figure for girls (73.7%).

Our Year 13 students also achieved impressive results this year, meaning that an impressive 87% of students were placed at their firm choice university. This year, on average, students achieved a grade C at the end of their Post 16 studies. The average number of A levels taken and completed also continues to exceed national average.

## 'Wizard of Oz': 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

We are all looking forward to what promises to be another wonderfully successful and positive year, and over the course of the next few weeks our extra-curricular programme will be fully up and running with a wide range of activities on offer to support the talents and interests of our students. Our bi-annual musical is back this year and we are excited to be presenting our performance of 'Wizard of Oz'. Auditions have already taken place for most year groups, with year 12 auditions taking place shortly. We hope that many of you will be able to join us to watch the performances, which will take place from 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Please do save the date and come



along; I can assure you that our students will not fail to impress you! We will share more details with you as they emerge and hope to see as many of you as possible there.

With best wishes,



Mrs Cristina Taboada-Naya  
**Headteacher**

