

Friday 22nd July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of our first 'normal' academic year since 2019/20, it is an opportunity to reflect on our achievements this year. Covid-19 certainly has not gone away, and it has continued to pose significant challenges at times but, as always, we have pulled together and managed to keep the school open for every year group, every day; no mean feat given the extent of staff absence at times. It has been lovely to welcome parents and carers back into school for key events this term, some for the first time since their child started with us!

This term our Year 11 students sat their GCSE exams; the first year group to do so in two years. Despite the exam period being longer than ever, our students were excellent and demonstrated their resilience and aspiration right to the end. The BBQ and Prom were a chance to celebrate their hard work during the five years with us, particularly the latter two when their education was so affected by the pandemic. I look forward to seeing them on Thursday 25th August for results day!

There has been much to celebrate this term. Activities week returned and was bigger and better than ever! It was just wonderful watching our young people just be children, enjoying a broad range of enrichment activities that will have created memories forever. Planning has already begun for 2023!

Recognising and celebrating the outstanding achievements of our students at our annual Presentation Evening in June was another highlight of our summer term. So many excellent students were shortlisted in each category making the competition very tough but there could only be one winner for each award and they were all exceptional.

After a gruelling process our new Head Boy, Jake and Head Girl, Millie were appointed. They have made an excellent start, notably with their work introducing our new Year 7 students to the school. The incoming Year 7 is set to be our largest year group in the school and after making very positive first impressions, I am excited to see what they achieve when they officially become part of 'Team Trafalgar' in September.

Our school production 'School of Rock' took place last week; our first whole school show in three years! Our students and staff have worked so hard and their efforts were clearly evident in the quality of the production they put on. It was really fantastic, huge congratulations to all those involved! We have some real talent in our school community and I can't wait to see how that is fostered next year as we prepare for our next whole school show, details of which will be revealed in September.

End of term Celebrations

It has been great to return to The Mountbatten Centre for our end of term assembly where we celebrated our student's successes and achievements this term. Huge congratulations to all of our award winners, some of whom you can see in the end of term newsletter.

Site Improvements

There will be further improvements made to our site this summer. As our numbers rise again for September, the much-needed work to increase the number of student toilets in the building has already started. As well as the bulk

of new toilets being situated in the main foyer, there will also be additional toilets in various areas across the school. This work will see us gain an additional 40 student toilets.

To support the growing popularity of our Performance subjects, we have invested heavily in improvements to our main hall by installing a new lighting system for school productions and a new stage curtain. It was wonderful to see this fully utilised in 'School of Rock' last week.

Our canteen is also undergoing a refurbishment this summer as we strive to create a more college feel for our students. This also extends to the school playground where we will be installing an outside servery able to serve hot drinks, ice lollies, jacket potatoes and much more.

Since the building of the UTC on our site and the subsequent rapid growth of the school there has been significant pressure on onsite parking for our staff and visitors. Therefore, South drive and the front of school is being remodelled and re-tarmacked to put in a substantial number of additional parking spaces which means no member of staff will have to park off site from September.

Farewells

It is the time of year where we say goodbye to some members of staff who are moving on. After an outstanding contribution to the school over the last five years, Miss Simms has secured a well-deserved promotion at a local school and we wish her the very best of luck in her new role. Miss Hazen is heading back to America this summer and we thank her for all her hard work and wish her the very best in the next stage of her career. We also say good bye to Miss Knight, our library assistant and wish her the very best for her future. Congratulations to Mr Dudley and Miss Henshaw who tie the knot this summer (not to each other!). We hope they both have a wonderful day.

Key dates for the autumn term

Our school calendar, containing all key dates, will be available on our school website to view during the summer holidays. However, some key dates for the first half of the autumn term are as follows;

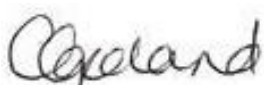
- Thursday September 1st September: INSET Day
- Friday 2nd September: Years 7 and 11 only - 8.50am start
- Monday 5th September: All students return - 8.50am start
- Thursday 15th September: Preparing for Year 11 Evening
- Thursday 29th September: Year 7 Tutor Evening
- Tuesday 4th October: PD Day 1: Community
- Thursday 6th October: Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 Curriculum Evening
- Thursday 13th October: Open Evening

Most events will be held in person, with the exception of Parents Evenings which will remain online as attendance has proved significantly better in this format. More details about each specific event will follow much nearer the time.

Thank you for your continued support this year. Trafalgar School is an incredibly special community and one I am proud to lead every day. My staff and I cannot wait to safely welcome your children back to school in September.

Have a wonderful summer break.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Copeland
Executive Headteacher