



## Headmaster's Newsletter Friday 6 September 2019

**Dear Parents,**

I was delighted to welcome back our students yesterday for the first assembly of a brand new school year. It was a great sightseeing well over 660 boys in Langford Sports Centre and I was particularly pleased to welcome our new Year 7 into the school. Our assembly was an opportunity for me to congratulate our students who recently received their public examination results. We were delighted that our boys achieved strong results at A level and at GCSE; at the top grades, the percentages achieved here were the highest in the school's history.

### **Public examination results**

Nearly 80% of all grades at A level were at A\* - C and we were extremely pleased that nearly every boy who applied to university got into their first choice or insurance course. Those students who have chosen to stay on Island to seek employment also managed to obtain the grades that they required. At GCSE, well over 50% of all grades were 7 – 9 (equivalent to the old A and A\* grades). Over 30% of all grades were 8/9 (the old A\*) which is an increase on last year by nearly 5 percentage points. The year group also achieved our highest percentage of 9's in the school's history. We congratulate all of our students and we wish our leavers well in the next stage of their careers and our new Year 12 students every success as they embark upon their A level studies. A full analysis of all results will be presented to parents once remarks have been taken into account in October.

### **School values**

In assembly, I highlighted to all our boys that this term we will be concentrating on re-establishing our firm school values: **Respectful, Resilient, Resourceful and Aspirational**. I shall be emphasising our values and our behavioural expectations in year group assemblies as we move through the first part of the term. I also look forward to communicating this to parents in our parent Information Evenings and Friday Newsletters over the coming weeks.

### **Welcome to our new staff**

Of course, at the start of a new academic year, we are joined by new colleagues and I would like to extend a warm welcome to the following:

Mrs May Brennand (Head of Maths)  
Mr Alan Falle (Head of Sixth Form and Teacher of PE)  
Mr Matthew Richardson (Teacher of Humanities)  
Mrs Rachel Kemp (Teacher of English)

We are also pleased to welcome Miss Jennifer Bridge (RE), Ms Lena Oliveira and Mr Brian Springthorpe (MFL), Mr Robert Gibbons and Mrs Jodi Fowler (DT) and Mrs Julia Arnett and Ms Jo Taylor (Music) who are joining us on a part-time basis. We also welcome back Mrs Rachel Smith who returns to the History department after a career break. Ms Cristina Herrera-Martin and Ms Gabrielle Armstrong are currently away from school and arrangements have been put in place to cover their Tutor groups and teaching classes in the meantime.

### **Site maintenance**

My thanks must go to our hard-working maintenance team led by Site Manager, Mr Simon Barnett, for the vast amount of work that has been carried out over the summer holidays. Many parts of the school have been redecorated and refurbished including the Sports Pavilion, the Bistro, the Study Centre, classrooms, corridors and bag racks. Our toilet facilities have also been upgraded and refurbished. I have already impressed upon the boys how important it is to look after our facilities and to respect the time and work that has been invested on their behalf by the excellent support staff that we have at the College.

### **The shape of the day**

As a quick reminder (and as I am sure you are already aware) we have made changes to the daily timetable. Please note that school now begins at 8.25 am with a 10 minute registration period and Lesson 1 begins at 8.35 am. This means that lunch begins slightly later at 1.05 pm and the end of school is now at 3.25 pm.

### **Catering questionnaire**

At the end of last term, well over 400 boys completed a questionnaire regarding catering at the College and the facilities in and around the Bistro. This was led by our Student Council and the results of the survey were then discussed with representatives of the Council and the Senior Leadership team. Over the summer, a number of changes have been made to improve and modernise the Bistro including new flooring, new lighting, repainting and refurbishment in and around this area. I am working with the catering staff from Jersey Potteries to ensure that we focus on improving the quality of food and the service provided in accordance with the feedback from the survey.

I was also very pleased to see the following information that I have been asked to forward on to you by Nick Jewell, Head of Facilities Management, Government of Jersey, and Sue Burry, Health & Wellbeing Dietitian for Health & Community Services.

*“In partnership with public health we have been working hard at improving the nutrition of foods served at schools and will be implementing programmes as part of the Food and Nutrition Strategy 2017, more information can be found here:*

<https://www.gov.je/health/healthybody/pages/foodnutritionstrategy.aspx>.

*We have reviewed the menus in school canteens and there will be a new style of menu offered for this school year. The changes promote healthier eating and improved nutrition in meals in the school canteens, such as replacing desserts with fresh fruit or vegetables as a starter. We would like your support to encourage our children to consume more healthy foods such as meeting their 5-A-Day of fruit and vegetables. These menus have been reviewed and are following the School Food Standards:*

[http://www.schoolfoodplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/School\\_Food\\_Standards\\_140911-V2e-tea-towel.pdf](http://www.schoolfoodplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/School_Food_Standards_140911-V2e-tea-towel.pdf).

*We will be reviewing these again for next term and involving students in this process with the hope that these healthier options will be adopted as part of normal every day diets to improve the health and well-being of our future adults.”*

### **Co-curricular update**

We are pleased to announce that Mr Kieran Akers has now taken up the post of Senior Teacher (Co-curricular). In his new role, Mr Akers will look to build and promote ‘out of the classroom’ experiences for our boys in a range of areas including competitive and non-competitive sports, the Arts and academic competitions. As well as this, there will be a range of lunchtime and after-school clubs being launched and your son will find out more about this in assemblies next week.

Following Mr Akers' change of role, I am delighted to announce that Mr Andy Royle will take on the role of Sartorius Housemaster.

**Calamity Jane auditions**

A quick reminder that any boys in Years 8 – 13 who are interested in auditioning for the JCG production of Calamity Jane should go to the JCG Hall/Drama Studio on both Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 September from 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm. Please dress comfortably as you will be expected to act, sing and dance!

Finally, I mentioned at the end of my assembly yesterday how much I was looking forward to sharing the successes and achievements of our students as we work through an extremely busy term. I very much look forward to meeting parents at the numerous events that we will be holding at the College over the coming months.

With my best wishes for the term ahead.

**Alun D Watkins**  
Headmaster