



22nd October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Principal's Update – Autumn Term 4

I am very pleased to inform you that the building work on the new College VI extension is now almost complete and we are very much looking forward to the new Fitness Suite (on the ground floor) coming into use after half term. **From when we return, boys will be able to access their changing room again and so should now come to school in regular uniform every day and change into PE kit for their PE lessons.** The new College VI classrooms (on the first floor) are expected to be finished by the end of November and will complete our Post 16 growth and refurbishment programme.

Riddlesdown Collegiate Parents' Fund

Thank you for the generous donations that parents have been making to the Parents' Fund. These funds are much appreciated and are typically used to purchase items or support activities that would otherwise be difficult to offer. There is no deadline – donations are always gratefully received – so please use the link in my recent [letter](#) if you would like to. Thank you very much.

GCSE Preparation Evening

Thank you to parents of Year 11 students who attended the GCSE Preparation Evening this week. We hope that you found it useful in supporting your children over the coming weeks and months. Year 11 students will return to [Mock Exams](#) immediately after half term and we wish them the best of luck. A reminder that the deadline for applications to College VI is 9th November 2021 – apply [here](#) on our website.

Year 7 Choir of the Year

It was a pleasure to hear Year 7 students participating in the Choir of the Year competition this afternoon. Every one of our new students has now had the opportunity to perform on a stage and I hope that the experience will be one that many of them are keen to repeat. The event was a wonderful way of marking the end of students' first half term and I am grateful to parents who were able to attend. Congratulations, in particular, to the winning choir, **The Candy Kids** from [Aquila College](#) and to **Jeremy and The Piglets** from [Pegasus College](#) for being awarded the Most Spirited Performance!

And finally...

As we come to the end of a busy half term, we reflect on how enjoyable it has been to operate without many of the restrictions that were previously in place. At the same time, however, we recognise that COVID cases, self-isolation and other illnesses have meant that overall attendance, whilst still good, has not been at its usual excellent level. We hope that the break will give students and staff an opportunity to rest and return in good health, but we know that we need to remain responsive to our circumstances. That is why we shall continue to promote hand washing, good respiratory hygiene and ventilation, and also why we may consider reintroducing other elements of the system of controls, if necessary. We want to help to keep our community well and attending; your understanding and support are much appreciated.

Have a great half term break. We look forward to seeing students back at the Collegiate on 8th November 2021 at 8.30am (Week B).

Yours sincerely

Mr S Dey
Principal