



30th September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

September Reflections and Updates

The first month of the academic year has been busy, productive and fulfilling. Our staff team have been incredible – supporting new colleagues and engaging and caring for students so well.

Open Events

Over the last two weeks, we have welcomed close to 2000 visitors to The Collegiate for Open Events. Last night, at our annual Open Evening, I was so proud of the contributions made by staff and students. Hundreds of students gave up their time to support us and they did an excellent job. I had so much positive feedback from visitors and the most common comment was about our wonderful students, how polite, confident and mature they were. Thank you to parents and carers for supporting them to be part of this very important community event.

We have three further Open Mornings yet to take place, on 3rd, 5th and 11th October, all of which are now fully booked.

Local Traffic

In a previous letter, I thanked parents for not driving to the school gate or onto the site at the beginning or end of day unless this has been arranged for individual circumstances. Again, I must remind families of the importance of minimising vehicle movement when students arrive and leave. For the safety of our young people, it is vital that parents avoid driving along Honister Heights and up to the gate. In addition, our neighbours, who show such support and patience, must have constant easy access to their driveways and properties. Please be considerate of them, ensuring their properties are never obstructed.

October Events

In addition to our three further Open Mornings, October will see plenty of activity at the Collegiate. The annual Year 7 *Choir of the Year* performance will take place on Friday 21st October 2022. Year 7 parents have been invited and all tickets have now been allocated. We are really looking forward to seeing the talents of our newest cohort. We also have our KS4 to KS5 transition events for students and parents, including the Transition Evening at 6pm on Wednesday 5th October and our College VI Open Evening at 6pm on Thursday 13th October.

Uniform

We are developing our provision to support families with the cost of living and in particular would like to ensure that we have a good facility for buying or receiving 'pre-loved' uniform. This is uniform that has been used before but is in a good condition to be handed on, either at a fraction of the cost or no cost to families. I would therefore like to ask families to check whether you have any uniform at home that is no longer worn. Perhaps, over the summer, students have grown, and you have found since the start of term that there are items they can no longer wear. This includes school uniform and PE kit. I would request that students bring in any 'pre-loved' uniform between now and half-term and leave with our Student Services Team so that we can organise our stock and make available to families.

Safeguarding Briefing

Safeguarding our students is our first priority and we are constantly working to reflect on and enhance our work. I recognise that, as students progress through secondary school, they begin to become more independent. It is crucial that we guide and support this independence and that is why, at school, we are continuing to enhance the education we provide for students about how they behave when they are independent from adult supervision on their journey to and from The Collegiate. We are very clear that, while in our uniform, students represent our school demonstrating their good manners, respect and consideration for the community. I am aware that there have been times this term that students are spending time in the local area after school and not going straight home. Whilst I would encourage students to socialise and enjoy time with friends, I am also concerned that with too much unstructured time, young people may occasionally find opportunities to behave in ways which are not always socially acceptable and do not demonstrate the values we hold.

In this *Safeguarding Briefing* I would like to ask parents to reflect on what their child does in their time after school. My advice would be that, unless they have a structured activity – such as a club, a library visit, a physical activity or visiting a friend's home – they go straight home. Many parents use great Apps to help them keep in touch with their child, or understand their location, such as Life360 or Find My Friend, which I would recommend to parents and carers if you do not have one of these safeguarding tools.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Turner
Principal