



9th September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Week 1 Reflections and Updates

After a busy and momentous first week of term, I wanted to share a few comments and updates.

Unmissable Opportunities

It was wonderful to meet all students in my start of term assemblies on Tuesday. I started with our fantastic new Year 7 students, who arrived with enthusiasm and wonder, and completed the morning meeting our new cohort of College VI students, who arrived in abundance as the largest ever group of sixth formers at Riddlesdown. In my assemblies I told students about my aim for **ambition, improvement** and **people**, helping them to understand how these aims can drive us to success. I also shared the Riddlesdown VALUES and asked students in particular this week to think carefully about the behaviours they will choose which will demonstrate they are **kind, respectful** and **proud** individuals. I reminded them of the importance of first impressions and new starts and advised them not to miss the opportunities new starts can bring. I have been impressed by the kindness I have seen with students helping others to find their way; I have been overwhelmed by the respect I have received with so many students asking how I am getting on; I have been pleased by the pride students are taking in wearing their full uniforms smartly and correctly. Please do reinforce these messages at home to make the most of the unmissable opportunity to make a great start to the year.

A nation in mourning

Following the sad and historic news that HM Queen Elizabeth II passed away yesterday, we have today paid tribute and respect to a monarch who has been so widely described as gracious, dignified and dedicated with a minute of silence and some school-wide activity to mark the event. Whilst not all members of the community will share the same feelings or sentiments, it is important that students recognise the significance of this national event and learn from an example of dedicated leadership and national service. This morning we have considered carefully any events over this period and will take steps to demonstrate respect and observance. We do have our annual *Celebration Evening* planned for Thursday 15th September to congratulate students on their high achievements. We plan for this event to go ahead, recognising that students who are heading to university will not be available at a later date to mark their achievements and successes. The event will, however, now be one that will share a reflective and commemorative tone and one which will recognise the importance of leadership and dedication; those attending will be contacted to ensure we conduct the event in an appropriate and respectful manner.

Once confirmation of any formal arrangements that may affect public or school life has been received, I shall update parents and students accordingly.

Communications

It has been a busy and full week for me getting to know the school, people and systems. I would like to apologise that some information has taken a little time to be available on the website. This

is all now in hand and information should be up to date soon. In the meantime, I would like to share a few dates for events at The Collegiate over the coming weeks for your information.

Tuesday 13th September – Welcome to Year 7 Evening, 6pm (details to follow next week)

Thursday 15th September – Celebration Evening

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd September – Open Mornings (booking can be made via the website)

Wednesday 21st September – Welcome to Year 10 Evening, 6pm (details will follow next week)

Monday 26th September – Year 7 Meet the Tutor

Thursday 29th September – Open Evening, 5.30 – 8.30pm (early finish for students; time to be confirmed)

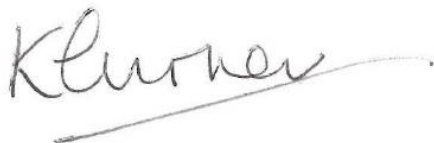
A reminder

I would like to thank 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. Having been to the gate in the morning and at the end of the day this week, I have been reminded 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.

Thank you

A final note of thanks to your wonderful children and our incredible staff who have demonstrated such support and kindness this week. I think I'm going to like it here!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'K Turner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs K Turner
Principal