

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you've had an enjoyable summer break filled with relaxation and fun. As the new school year approaches, I want to extend a warm welcome back to school to you and all our returning students as well as our wonderful new year 7 cohort who had a fantastic first day yesterday and the many external students who have joined in Year 12.

The start of a new academic year is always an exciting time. It's a fresh beginning, a chance to learn and grow, and an opportunity to set new goals. On the subject of setting goals we are delighted to share that our Year 13 students did exceptionally well in their exams and we wish them all of the best for the future with 77% going off to University and the remaining 23% being successful in obtaining Apprenticeships and jobs. Our Year 11 students achieved the **best results Stoke Damerel Community College has ever had**. A testament to the hard work of all of the students. Our upcoming newsletter will share some of the key student highlights from this exam season as there were so many students achieving the top grade 9's.

Over the Summer, many of our classrooms have been painted, we have created additional classrooms and our Science department is currently undergoing a full refurbishment. We are also in the process of hopefully securing a brand new 3G pitch and will keep you updated on the success of the bid.

Detention information

Stoke Damerel is dedicated to delivering a high quality educational experience. We believe that all students have the right to thrive in a secure, contented, and constructive atmosphere that offers the chance to make substantial progress and accomplish challenging objectives. In situations where students do not meet these standards, we want to be up front and clear that consequences are in place as follows and are non negotiable:

- Late to school - 1 hour detention
- Non completion or poor quality homework - 1 hour detention
- Equipment missing - twice in one week - 1 hour detention
- Uniform infringement - twice in one week - 1 hour detention
- Disruption in lessons or late to lessons - removed to recovery centre - 1 hour detention

Parents/carers will be informed of these detentions by 12.30pm.

Open Evening - Early closure

As you know, next week includes one of our most important events of the year, our Open Evening for Year 6 students and their parents. As usual many of our current students will be helping staff and parents on the evening and I give our thanks for the support that you and the students give to this annual event. The college continues to be oversubscribed with a waiting list in all year groups - this is testament to the outstanding reputation of the college and the fantastic young people that attend our college and are ambassadors for the school.

To allow time for the preparation of this evening and time for students taking part to return to College, we will dismiss students at **12.20 pm on Wednesday 13th September**.

Students entitled to a free school meal will be provided with this at Break A. The rest of the week will be a normal timetable. If this arrangement is difficult for you, we are able to offer supervision for Year 7 & 8 students in the Library until 3pm. Please contact your child's tutor to confirm your request.

Preparation for the year ahead

Students will be issued with equipment in pencil cases as well as their new House folders that will contain their homework books and knowledge organisers - they must have these with them everyday so it is important that your son / daughter has a good sized bag or rucksack for school. They should also carry a water bottle that can be refilled throughout the day.

A reminder that our uniform policy is very clear and will be adhered to in all cases - some ensure that jewellery, piercings, false nails and lashes are removed as per our policy and extreme hair styles and colour are not permitted.

We have an exciting year ahead with various activities, events, and educational adventures planned. I look forward to seeing students smiling faces back in our classrooms and hallways, ready to embark on this new chapter of their educational journey.

If there is anything you would like to discuss or if you have any concerns as your child settles back into school, please feel free to reach out to me or any member of our staff. We are here to support our young people and ensure that their time at our school is both enriching and enjoyable.

Hopefully, this warm weather continues so please ensure students bring/wear sun cream where necessary and have a water bottle with you that you can fill up at our numerous water fountains.

Wishing you a fantastic school year ahead!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Follett', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr C Follett
Head of School