

Friday 9th September 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It has been lovely to welcome back all the students to school this week, including our new Year 7 students who are starting their high school careers.

As we start this new year, we would also like to **congratulate all of the students who have contributed to the school's excellent GCSE results**. After such a turbulent few years we have been really pleased to see the hard work of our young people being rewarded.

As you may be aware the GCSE grade scale is between 1 to 9 (high attainment), this replaced the A* to G scale. Under this new system, a student with a grade 4 will achieve a 'standard pass' whilst those with a grade 5 will achieve a 'strong pass'. A grade 4 or above is equivalent to a grade C and above and will have currency for individual students as they progress to further study and employment. We are delighted to report that 79% of our students achieved the Basics measure in Maths and English GCSEs, securing for themselves a brilliant springboard into further education.

As a school who is proud to be comprehensive, it is important that we have seen students of all abilities leave with a strong set of qualifications. 100% of the students who sat their exams left with GCSEs, with 93% achieving at least one grade 4. Students have again secured outstanding success rates at the highest grades. A grade 7 is equivalent to a grade A, and we were extremely pleased that 187 of our students achieved at least one grade at this high level. The new grade 9, which is thought to be awarded to only a small number of students nationally, was awarded to 80 students at Chorlton High - which is a phenomenal achievement!

We were very much aware that this year's examinations provided students with greater levels of challenge and we do not underestimate the pressure of these new GCSE courses. Many subjects have more exams than in previous years, and in all subjects what is expected of students has risen. However, I am very pleased to report to you that the results achieved were the best in the school's history, and well above national averages. We do believe that this is down to the way students are working throughout their years at school, and through their online learning, not just at the end of Year 11. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our students, our incredibly dedicated staff and our supportive parents for all the hard work that went into achieving such excellent results. Well done everyone!

As we start back, we will be reminding students of getting themselves into **'healthy learning habits'** in respect of their home learning and home study. Students are told that to achieve well they should follow a regular routine to complete any home learning tasks that are assigned to them via MS Teams. Ultimately students will be using Teams to access lessons from home, as well as revision and study materials. We will be sharing information with students in form time and holding an induction session with Year 7 over the next few weeks. Setting up good regular times and routines for home learning helps students get into good study habits, and hopefully stops them feeling overwhelmed as they approach any exams.

Of course, school isn't all about exams, and we wish to ensure that all students get involved with **extra-curricular clubs, enrichment opportunities and their work on the CHS Community pledge**. Each term an extra-curricular booklet is produced which lists after school clubs. This will be posted on our website and promoted to students in the next few weeks. Over the past few years our students have been remarkable at driving social actions projects, and I look forward to hearing from the Student Council about the causes that they wish to adopt for the year ahead. Our sustainability drive will also continue this term, with a particular focus on the reduction of single use plastics over the next few months. As

requested by the Student Council, we are now removing the sale of plastic bottles, and in light of this we have asked that students bring in a **refillable water bottle to school**.

Arbor/School Gateway

As you are aware, we will be moving parents' payments from School Gateway to Arbor. From Tuesday 13th September if you wish to put money your child's account this will need to be done through Arbor. Further guidance about how to do this will be sent out on this day. For Year 8-11 parents, this means you will continue to update your child's account using School Gateway until this date. For Year 7 parents, you will be able to pay for the previous money spent before this day by your child at school and then add additional funds for the remaining week / half term. The move from one system to another has been complex and at times frustrating. There will still be a period of embedding the new system, but we are all looking forward to having a more stable situation moving forward. Thank you so much for your patience and support in respect of this matter.

Parent Information evenings

We wanted to let you know about the virtual Parent's Information Evenings taking place next week. Links for each of the virtual evenings will be sent out on the day of the event. Dates and time for each Year group can be found below:

- Year 7: Tuesday, 13th September - 5pm
- Year 8: Thursday, 15th September - 6pm
- Year 9: Tuesday, 13th September - 6pm
- Year 10: Wednesday, 14th September - 5pm
- Year 11: Wednesday, 14th September - 6pm

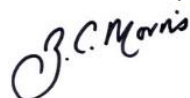
School car park

I would like **remind parents not to drive into the car park at key times of the day**; between 8.00 to 8.45am and 2.15 to 3pm. Unfortunately, this week we have experienced a high volume of cars parking on double yellow lines or making unsafe manoeuvres in the streets close by. Again, we would like to repeat the request to support students to have a healthy start to the day, making their way to school independently. This way we would be making the streets in our local community safer from both a road safety and an air pollution perspective.

Finally, we have respectfully discussed the **passing of Queen Elizabeth II** in school today and will continue to do so over the next week. We are fully aware that such events can upset young people and may trigger emotions that link to their life experiences. If this is the case and you are concerned about your child please contact their Head of Year in the first instance.

We look forward to working with students and parents in the year ahead to maintain and improve the already high standards the school has across the academic, pastoral and extra-curricular areas. Our relationship with parents is a vital part of the success of the school, and in advance of the new school year I would like to thank parents for their ongoing support and feedback.

Yours sincerely



Ms. Z Morris
Headteacher