



January 2016

Dear Parents,

The children of years 6, 9 and 11 face an important new stage in their education starting in their next school year. Children currently in year 6 will start senior school in year 7, with all the excitement, challenge and change that senior school brings. Children currently in year 9 will commence year 10, where IGCSE courses begin and options choices are made between subjects to be followed through to public examination at IGCSE. And the children currently in year 11, with their IGCSE examinations looming ahead of them this year, will commence their AS and A-Level courses from September, having chosen three or four subjects to specialise in at depth. These pupils are also starting to seriously contemplate higher education options and will select universities and degree courses to apply to while at work for their AS and A-Level examinations.

As the parents of these children you need to be informed as to what the progression of your children through the British education system entails. You want to know how much continuity and how much change they will face. You will be concerned as to how your children should best prepare themselves for this change, how they should go about making the choices they have to make and what guidance and advice we as a school provide for them. Furthermore, you want to be reassured that you as a parent are fully aware of these issues so that you can help your child and can engage in meaningful discussion with them as their future becomes reality.

Consequently, I would like to invite you to an orientation meeting that I will hold for the parents of pupils in these years. The dates are as follows:

- **Orientation for year 7:** **Monday 7th March 09.00am**
- **Orientation for IGCSE (year 10):** **Monday 21st March 09.00am**
- **Orientation for AS/A-Level (year 12/13):** **Monday 28th March 09.00am**

I envisage that these meetings will last for between 60 and 75 minutes each. Of course, in addition to explaining what lies ahead for your children I will also answer any questions that you may have and will send you away with a hand-out that gives you an explanation of the key issues I will have raised so that you can review them at your own leisure. The meetings will be held in the senior school, so you should come to the senior school entrance before 09.00am on the appropriate day. Please note that although these meetings are only for parents, I will be holding separate meetings with the pupils, also in March, to reassure them and explain to them the issues that lie ahead of them. The children of year 6 will have a Senior School Open Day on Monday 30th May where they will follow a senior school program for the day. More information on this exciting event will follow in due course. I look forward to seeing you at the orientation meetings.

Sincerely,
Phil Holden
Headmaster