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Dear Parents

I write as a long summer term comes to a close. Once again, we have had a very busy and successful term and I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks for your continued support throughout the year.

We started the year dealing with the continued impact of the COVID pandemic. The mass testing of our students on their return to school in September was not an ideal way to start the term and certainly not the first experience of secondary school one would have wanted for our new year 7. We finish the year trying to manage extremely high temperatures in school and all the issues that follow from that; by any standards, an extraordinary year.

In between these rather unfortunate bookends, there has been so much that has actually positively defined our year. It has been a delight to see all those things that make the secondary experience so special, returning to our school life. Our whole school production of Matilda in the spring was a great example of this. Aside from being a wonderful performance, it was instrumental in bringing the school community together at such a crucial time.

Our Christmas concert was such an important milestone as our extraordinary musicians were able to perform in front of a live audience for the first time in such a while. Just a couple of weeks ago, the hall was full of music once again as we hosted our summer concert. Our annual evening of celebration held last week was such a positive event. It has been a joy to see activities days return; numerous off-site excursions, sporting successes, public speaking triumphs, student leadership programmes, enterprise events, farm developments and even baking competitions.

A particular highlight of the year was the inaugural Oathall Community Day last Friday and with over £2,000 being raised for the four house charities, all involved can feel rightly proud.

At this time of year, we also say farewell to a number of staff who will be leaving Oathall; Mr Anderson, Ms Green, Mrs McDonald, Mrs Newman, Mr Aaronovith, Mrs Freeman and Mr Greenshields. Between them they have given many years of service and have demonstrated outstanding commitment to the young people in their care. I am sure that you will join me in extending the very best of wishes to all colleagues leaving at the end of the term.

End of term & start of term reminders

The last day of this term is **Thursday 21 July** and as is our usual practice, students will be dismissed early following a whole school assembly.

School will finish at approximately 12:30 hrs. School bus times will be altered to reflect this change. If your child uses a public bus service please ensure you check the appropriate timetable for timings.

Autumn term 2022

The school will start at the normal time on **Friday 2 September** for students in Y7 only. This will enable year 7 students to settle in more easily on their first day.

On **Monday 5 September** students in all year groups will return. [Other key dates for the new academic year](#) are published on the college website.

Punctuality and uniform

Please emphasise to your children the importance of a punctual start to the day. As you are aware, the timings of our school day have been updated for the new academic year. Further details can be found [here](#). I would, however, like to emphasise the key times for the start and end of the new school day are as follows:

8.30 am on school site
8.35 am in tutor room
8.40 am register called
3.05 pm students dismissed

We are grateful for your support in ensuring all students start the school year smartly dressed in their uniform. Many of you may use the latter part of summer break to replace items of school uniform. Our latest guidance on [the college uniform](#) is available on the website and our main uniform suppliers can offer any further guidance you might need. We would also like to remind you to ensure that your child brings the correct equipment in September, see our [Ready for Learning](#) sheet.

West Sussex County Council survey

Parents and carers play a vital part in supporting and safeguarding their children when using digital devices and online platforms. The council are keen to understand local views and have launched a [survey on the Your Voice Platform](#). This runs until the 14 September.

Summer Emotional Health and Well-being support

West Sussex have asked us to signpost [Summer Support Information](#) that you may find of benefit as we approach the long summer holidays.

Finally, thank you all for your continued support this year. We wish you all a very enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely

Mr E Rodriguez
Headteacher