



## Headteacher's Newsletter Term 1 2015

### Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a fantastic start to the term, and it has been great to see the students return with such positive attitudes to their learning. We were able to celebrate some excellent GCSE and A level results with our students over the summer and we have been able to share these successes with students in all year groups in assemblies.

### Who is school for?

In assemblies in week one, I asked "who school is for?" The students who always achieve their potential at any school are those that understand that school is there for them. They are the students who really do take advantage of the opportunities available to them and realise that they are really well supported by a team of committed staff, and that we are all here for them. They are also the students that regularly achieve a 1 or a 2 for their Attitude to Learning scores, and who rarely receive negative behaviour points.

55% of our year 13 students applied to university and all were successful. We wish them the very best of luck as they head off to their new accommodation in the next two weeks. A number of these students are the first in their family ever to go on to university and there will be a real sense of pride and apprehension as families say goodbye.

### University visits

We ran a number of trips to universities last year and plan to do so this year too, as well as ensuring students from a wider range of year groups also get to see university life at first hand. The following university visits and events are planned:

University of Kent – 10<sup>th</sup> November  
Ravensbourne – 17<sup>th</sup> November  
East London University - 24<sup>th</sup> November  
Canterbury Christ Church University – Term 2  
Greenwich University – Term 3

### Facebook and Show My Homework

Our Parent Voice meetings have been provided us with useful feedback on what we do well and what we can improve. Two key elements of our provision which we are working to improve are communication and homework. We have taken steps to address these recommendations and have made some key changes that will help the way we communicate with you and our students.

Firstly, we are pleased to announce the addition of a school Facebook page. We know that many parents are already keen followers of our page and if you haven't seen it please take time to have a look, as it is updated regularly with important news from the school, as well as upcoming events.

Secondly, we have introduced our 'Show My Homework' facility that allows parents and students to access all homework via our website or on an App that is available for IOS and Android devices. This powerful software gives you personalised and easily searchable access to your child's homework, resources and timetables. We believe this will revolutionise the way we set, complete and receive homework at Wrotham School and most importantly it allows you to support your child in making the progress they need with their homework tasks. 'Show My Homework' is an easy to use site with full seven days a week customer support and is accessible from anywhere at any time.

Please see the school website for a quick link to both our Facebook and 'Show My Homework' sites.



### **Wrotham Passport Graduation**

It was great to see so many parents at our Wrotham Passport Graduation Ceremonies. Furthermore, it was clear that the students enjoyed having their hard work and achievement celebrated by the school community. Year 11 will be able to graduate this academic year as we will hold this ceremony at the end of term four before they start their GCSE exams.

### **Going truly cashless**

As school funding decreases across the country schools are forced to make more effective and efficient use of their resources. One vital resource we have is our cashless payment system which can be accessed through our website. To get this system working to its true potential we do need to become a cashless school. Therefore, from the start of term 2 (Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015) the finance office will not be accepting cash, nor will they be putting cash onto students' cashless canteen accounts. This means that you will have to use our online payment system to add money to your child's account for the canteen. You are able to limit your child's daily spend to ensure they do not spend all the money on day 1! If you are not already using this system you will receive a letter this term with all the information you need. Most schools have taken this approach and we have delayed it as long as possible, but dealing with daily queues of students with cash to be put onto their cashless canteen account does defeat the object, and I hope you will understand this. We will also only accept payment online for school trips.

### **School buildings**

You may now know that our application to the Condition Improvement Fund was unsuccessful last academic year. Unfortunately, the decision making for this funding came just before the general election and as a result many small projects were given funding and large scale bids like our were not successful. However, we now have planning permission for the improvements and expansion to the main building and will be submitting a strong application for the next round of funding, which we anticipate will open this autumn.

### **Open Days and Evening**

We are holding open events on the following dates:



Our recent parent survey during our Ofsted inspection in May, along with the ruler parent surveys we hold at Parents' Evenings tell us that you believe we offer a high quality education for your children. However, I am keen to hear what it is that you really value at Wrotham. Please email me at [parentview@wrotham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:parentview@wrotham.kent.sch.uk)



### Pride in our prefects

We are proud to announce our new prefect teams. These students were introduced to the rest of the school during assemblies this week.

MENTORING & STANDARDS TEAM	ENRICHMENT & STANDARDS TEAM
<b>HEAD PREFECTS: Emily Bamber &amp; Harry Blay</b>	<b>HEAD PREFECTS: Katherine Stevens &amp; Charlie Watson</b>
<b>Senior Prefects:</b>	<b>Senior Prefects:</b>
Chloe Holness	Millie Humhprey
Charlotte Martin	Toby Hurley
Holly Nutall	Tom Gadd
Raayma Iffah	Rebecca Kayes
Emily Benton	Lee Cooper
Britney Underdown	Alex Vazquez
Sean McHardy	Alex Issit
<b>Junior Prefects:</b>	<b>Junior Prefects:</b>
Xander Higginson	Ru-Mari Kirsch
Jodie Mochrie	Ed Challis
Megan Madden	James Hussey
Hannah Keightley	Reece Milton
Abigail Froggatt	Holly Hickford
Bella Shave	Yasmin Hurley
Stephanie Borg	Thomas Henning
George McPhee	David Matthews

Yours sincerely

Matthew Wright MA  
Headteacher  
Wrotham School