

## To inspire, to learn, to succeed

### Important Dates;

#### 25 Sept

Open Evening

#### 26 Sept

INSET DAY

#### 27 Sept

Open Morning 1

#### 28 Sept—29 Sept

DofE Bronze Expedition

#### 28 Sept—30 Sept

DofE Silver Expedition

#### 30 Sept

Open Morning 2

#### 01 Oct

Yr 8 Rugby v St Greg's

Yr 7,8,9 Netball

#### 02 Oct

Yr 10-13 UK University and apprenticeship search event, Bristol

#### 03 Oct

Yr 9, 10, 11 Rugby v St Greg's

Acceleration Programme

Information Evening

#### 04 Oct

Yr 10/12 Product Design Trip,

Thorpe Park

#### 07 Oct

Yr 7 Wild Place Trip (each day this week)

#### 08 Oct

Yr 7, 8 Rugby v St Mark's

#### 09 Oct

U16s Girls Football tournament

#### 10 Oct

Yr 10 Parents' Evening

#### 15 Oct

U14s Girls football tournament

Yr 8, 9 Rugby v Ralph Allen

#### 24 Oct

Tutor Evening (Yrs 7 & 12)

#### 25 Oct

END TERM 1

### Contact Details

t. 01225 423582

e. [enquiries@oldfieldschool.com](mailto:enquiries@oldfieldschool.com)

w. [oldfieldschool.com](http://oldfieldschool.com)

@OldfieldSchool.com

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of a new school year, in particular to our new Year 7 students and those who have joined the school this year in Year 12 and their parents.

I was very pleased with our GCSE results this year, with almost 76% of all grades being Grade 4 or better and 67% of students achieving 5 or more A\*-C grades including English and maths. Almost 60% of grades were Grade 5 or better. In English 84% of grades were 4+ and 66% 5+. In maths the figures were 73% and 51% respectively.

We also welcome our new cohort of Year 12s as our Sixth Form has continued to grow, with 94 students joining this year group. As with last year this reflects the success of our Year 11 students in their GCSE examinations. Our ambition has been to grow the Sixth Form to 200 and with our new Year 12 students we now have 190 students. This growth will further change the dynamic of the Sixth Form and will support the establishment of extra-curricular, sporting and other opportunities for our students. Despite this growth in overall numbers we have maintained very small class sizes with the very great majority of classes having 10 or fewer students. In addition we have maintained all of our A Level courses, including subjects such as music and dance which have been marginalised in many other institutions.

Outcomes for our Year 13 students in 2019 were also good with an average of a grade C+ across all A Level subjects and over 20% of grades at A\*/A. I was particularly pleased that so many Year 13 students achieved or exceeded the grades that they needed to progress to their university of choice. Particular mention should be made of Freya Spear and Tom Wills, both of whom will be studying at Cambridge University this year.

In order to accommodate the growth in sixth form student numbers, the Sixth Form in Penn House has been refurbished over the summer and additional social space has been created. This has, in turn, allowed us to improve the study spaces available and to lift the area generally. The results are impressive and, with the work previously completed in 2018-19, we now have a sixth form centre to be proud of. Other site developments over the summer include the refurbishment of a number of teaching rooms in an ongoing programme of improvement that will continue over the next few years.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our new teaching and support staff. In science we have been joined by Sophie Cornelius as the new Leader of Learning and also Mhairi Ziegler, Catriona Houston and Richard Richardson (who will be teaching Sarah Patterson's classes during her maternity leave). In Humanities, Alastair Russell is joining the History Department and Rebecca Sancto is our new psychology teacher, and Sarah Hollywood is covering for Caitlin Edmondson during her maternity leave. The Mathematics Department has three new staff, Abigail Stephens, Emily Freeman and Vicky Vipond. Chris McGettigan has joined the English Department and in MFL James Cordle is our new Head of Department. In Creatives we have been joined by Josie Wells in art, Jessica Davies in music and Celia Fielding in design technology.

*Continued overleaf*

*Continued from page 1*

With regard to our non-teaching staff there are a number of new roles in our pastoral team. We have appointed Sarah Champion as an additional Education Welfare Officer and she will also have a role as a family support worker. We have appointed Richard Farrant and Alison Norris as Assistant Heads of Year. These are new roles at the school and they will support the Heads of Year in providing pastoral support and guidance for our students. Debra Wright has joined the school administration team and will be responsible for administering trips and visits as well as working in the School Office. Sian Collier is covering for Stacey Collins as our Attendance Administrator while she is on maternity leave. A number of staff have joined the SEND team as teaching assistants. They are Jayne Barton, Charlotte Miller, Laura Ranford, Vicky Oram-Ahern, Ida Mauro House and Sophie Clark.

I would also like to take this opportunity to update you on a number of internal appointments. Mark Hayward is now Head of Year 12, this is a new appointment working alongside Graham Nash in the Sixth Form and Penny Bird has been appointed as Head of Year 8. Christy Grimes has been appointed as Assistant SENCO, this is also a new role for this year, as is Assistant Head of Year 7 and Anna Taylor has been appointed to this position.

You will have noted that we have a number of new roles in our pastoral team at the school and these will be explained in more detail in future newsletters with more information about each of these posts as these are staff who will have regular contact with parents and students.

Tonight is our Open Evening (25<sup>th</sup> September) and I know that many of your children have volunteered to help with this. This is very much appreciated as they are invariably excellent ambassadors for the school. As with previous years we have an inset day on the following day; Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

A list of clubs and activities taking place will be sent home shortly, in the meantime you can check which sports clubs are running via the school website.

Best wishes for the remainder of this term.

*Steven Mackay, Headteacher*

# NOTICE BOARD

## UNIFORM

I would be grateful for your support in ensuring that we maintain high standards of uniform by ensuring that your son or daughter has the correct uniform. Please remember that extreme hairstyles and unnatural hair colouring are not permitted. Could I also take this opportunity to remind you of our policy on piercings. We do not allow students to have piercings other than for an ear stud. Our expectations about uniform are outlined on the school website.

*Mr Mackay*

## Medical information

In order for the school to best help your child, parents/ carers are reminded that they should inform the school whenever there is a change in their child's medical condition, or a new diagnosis has been made by a medical professional. Parents should also inform the school when a child has a temporary condition (e.g. broken arm etc.) so we can support your child's daily needs within school.

Parents should send all information/updated information to [enquiries@oldfieldschool.com](mailto:enquiries@oldfieldschool.com) for the attention of Mrs Goddard-Palmer (Student Medical Officer).

## New School Starters – Free School Meals Information

If your child/ren are transferring to Oldfield from a local authority other than Bath and North East Somerset Council (BaNES), an application for Free School Meals must be made via BaNES Free School Meal Team. The Local Authority will then check eligibility using the DWP Eligibility Checking Service or by contacting your previous local authority for any Transitional Protection they may hold. PLEASE NOTE, as Local Authorities do not share personal data with each other, this means that unless the parent/guardian applies direct to Free School Meal Team in BaNES they CANNOT confirm their entitlement to Free School Meals.

BaNES have had several parents/guardians asking whether their children's Free School Meals will continue when they go to their new school in September? As long as your child has a current claim to Free School Meals (Eligible by Benefit) with BaNES, your claim will continue automatically, there is no need for you to reapply.

If you have any queries please contact the Free School Meals team on 01225 394317 or by email [freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk)