



Sir John Cass's Foundation and Red Coat CofE Secondary School & Sixth Form College

Headteacher: Mr Paul Woods

Stepney Way, London E1 0RH

Telephone : 020 7790 6712

Fax : 020 7790 0499

Monday 4th September 2017

New Academic Year 2017/18

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back to the new school year.

This year promises to be another exciting one, building on excellent GCSE and A Level results this summer. Overall results are impressive and headlines have already been published in the local media and on our website.

Exam Results 2017

Headline figures for GCSE results are as follows:

- 70% of students secured 5 or more grades at A*-C, including English and Maths.
- 44% of students secured at least one A* or A grade, with 64 students (33%) securing 3+ A*/A grades and 60 students (31%) securing 8+ grades at A*/A.
- 95 students (49%) achieved the English Baccalaureate, double the national average.
- 193 students (99%) secured 5 or more grades at A*-C.
- 192 students (99%) secured at least one grade at A*-C.
- All students (100%) secured at least one qualification.

Our Sixth Form results are as follows:

A Level:

Average Grade: B

3+ A Levels A*- E: 100%

2+ A Levels A*- E: 100%

Applied General:

Average Grade: D*

The Department for Education performance tables have changed this year. The DfE has provided a short video to help parents understand the changes. The video can be found via our website at: www.sjcr.net/our-school/exam-results.html

New GCSEs

We are now teaching the new GCSEs in all subjects. These syllabuses are purely exam based and have no coursework. Students will be graded from 1- 9 (9 being the highest grade).

Student Planners

Each student is given their own student planner at the start of the academic year, and this year the planner has been completely revamped from its previous design. The planner provides students a space to write homework, and also provides students with several useful reference pages. The planner is also an easy way for parents and staff to communicate with one another. For this reason, we ask that you to **check and sign your child's planner weekly**.

School Website

We have recently launched our new school website (www.sjcr.net), which has been designed to be more user-friendly, especially for those accessing the website via mobile and tablet devices. We aim to feature regular updates from the school and aim for the website to be a primary source of information for all matters relating to the school.





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If as parents you have any suggestions about how we can make the website more useful please do email info@sjcr.net with your suggestions and we will try and take this on board.

Free School Meals Eligibility

Children at school in Tower Hamlets whose parents / carers receive the following support payments may be entitled to free meals:

- income support
- income-based jobseeker's allowance
- the guarantee credit of pension credit
- income-related employment and support allowance
- support from NASS (National Asylum Support Service)
- an income, as assessed by the Inland Revenue, of less than £15,190 a year (*this is called the threshold amount*) and who do not get working tax credit but do get child tax credit

Please note you do not have to be claiming housing benefit or council tax benefit in order to make a claim for free school meals for your dependent children.

If you qualify under any of the above, you can claim by telephoning the benefits service on 020 7364 5001 or visiting one of the One Stop Shops:

- Bethnal Green One Stop Shop - 1 Rushmead
- Bow & North Poplar One Stop Shop - 1 Ewart Place
- South Poplar One Stop Shop - 15 Market Square
- Stepney & Wapping One Stop Shop - 260 Commercial Road

The One Stop Shops are a drop-in facility and appointments are not necessary.

Electronic Devices

We prefer students not to bring electronic devices into school, but understand that some parents feel happier knowing their child has a phone with them. Unfortunately, they can be easily damaged and, if lost, are difficult to find.

The school cannot take responsibility for electronic devices that are lost or stolen and, whilst we can assist with any investigation, we cannot promise to invest substantial amounts of staff time. I strongly advise parents to ensure that devices are covered by home insurance policies and would suggest that if it is necessary for a student to bring a device into school, they bring a cheap, basic model.

I would also like to highlight the following points:

- Mobile phones, personal hand-held devices and music players must be switched off, out of sight and not checked during the school day. If they are used during school day, they will be confiscated.
- We trust students to use their devices appropriately. Any student who uses a device inappropriately, for example engaging in cyberbullying or any online harassment, will be banned from bringing their device into school, as well as facing further consequences.

Key Events for this Academic Year

All dates can be found on the school website, however below are the 2017-18 term dates as well as those for parents' evenings and some other key events. Please check our website and social media feeds for regular updates on events.

Autumn Term

Open Evening

Autumn Half Term

Academic Review Day

Last day of Autumn Term

Monday 2nd October 2017

Holiday Monday 23rd Oct – Friday 27th October 2017

Wednesday 13th December 2017

Wednesday 20th December 2017





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Spring Term

Staff INSET day	Wednesday 3 rd January 2018
Start of the spring term for students	Thursday 4 th January 2018
Year 11 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 24 th January 2018
Spring Half Term Holiday	Monday 12 th February - Friday 16 th Feb 2018
Year 9 Options Evening	Thursday 1 st March 2018
Last day of Spring Term	Thursday 29 th March 2018

Summer Term

Start of the summer term for students	Monday 16 th April
Year 10 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 25 th April 2018
Year 8 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 23 rd May 2018
Summer Half Term Holiday	Monday 28 th May - Friday 1 st June 2018
Year 9 Parents' Evening	Thursday 7 th June 2018
Year 7 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 27 th June 2018
Last day of Summer Term	Friday 20 th July 2018

Late starts

Please note that on the following two dates school will start at the later time of 11am for all students. These two late starts will be following our open evenings for the main school and the Sixth Form.

- Tuesday 3rd October (*11am start to school*)
- Friday 3rd November (*11am start to school*)

Reminders will be sent out via text, the school website and the school's social media accounts.

Parent Pay - Cashless Catering

Following a successful trial of cashless catering in the summer term, the cashless catering system is now being fully adopted from September 2017. A reminder that a link to Parent Pay can be found on our new school website.

Absence Line

The school has a phone number which can be used to report student absence: **020 7790 6712** and select option 2. Please use this number to report and child absences. The line also has a voicemail service to allow for parents to leave messages outside of school hours.

Important Information Documents

There are a number of useful and important policies and documents we would like to draw your attention to, in particular the **Safeguarding Policy**.

Important documents and letters sent home to parents can be found under the 'for parents' section on the new school website.

I welcome all new students and parents who have joined our school community, and look forward to what I hope will be another successful year for Sir John Cass Red Coat School.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Woods
Headteacher

